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ROK GAME FANTASY STORY



아크
더
ARK THE LEGEND
레전드

ARK THE LEGEND

BOOK 16

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Ark the Legend

(아크 더 레전드)

by

Yoo Seong

Synopsis

A new game which the nation has dived into.

From the bloody battlefields to the pyramids of ancient times, head into the colourful world of Galaxian.

The glorious days of the legendary gamer Ark is over.

From finding a job to saving the party from a humiliating death, nothing is easily solved.....

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Space 1: Jurassic Park

Kung! Kung! Snap! Oduduk!

There was loud roar in the jungle engulfed in fog. The deafening roar occurred as the thick trees parted.

....Something huge was coming!

“Back off!”

Ark reflexively stood in front of Irina and shouted. And he turned in the direction that the roar was coming from. The branches in front of him were broken and something popped out.

‘Heok! W-what?’

Ark flinched and retreated.

The roars indicated that the ‘thing’ was still quite a distance away. But preparing for it to pop out was enough to make his heart pound. Furthermore, the size was enough to cause the earth to shake.

There seemed to be three of them and they were going to emerge from the vine covered branches. However, they were living things.

“Waaaaahhhhh!”

“Hiiik! Hiik! Hiik!”

The only evidence of their existence were loud screams. Ark was slightly panicked thanks to that but....

It was only for a moment. When looking at it, unexpected occurrences on adventures were common. And Ark wasn't a beginner to be surprised by such things. This was a game set in the backdrop of space!

‘I don't know if they are monsters but....’

Ark raised his sword with a grin.

‘I will confirm the identity after it is dead!’

“Equalizer!”

The white light rose in front of him. The white light then headed towards the bushes as some people burst out.

“Heok! Ark? N-no, Ark-nim!”

His name was heard in an unexpected situation. Ark hurriedly stopped his sword as he looked at them with confusion.

“What the, you guys?”

“Y-you finally came! I knew you would come!”

“....This voice is?”

“I thought I was going to die! Death!”

“Why are you here?”

Kukung! Chwajijijijik!

Just when Ark was asking the question. A thundering noise was heard from the thick trees to the right. And the misty fog revealed a huge figure.

The first thing that caught his eye was the huge head towering 4~5 metres over the trees. There was a huge tail that was 10 metres long and the large body was held up by legs with overwhelming muscles. And the huge body was covered with a distinctive leather.

“Oh my god! That is....!”

Surprisingly, the thing that appeared in the woods was a dinosaur! Among them, it was the strongest predator known as the T-rex, Tyrannosaurus.

Why was a dinosaur that had become extinct on earth millions of years ago wandering around in a place like this?

‘Is this a lost world? Jurassic Park?’ But he had no room to think about it. The huge eyes of the T-rex turned and its head lowered towards Irina.

Kukung!

There was a loud noise as the earth shook.

“Dammit! Irina-nim!”

“I-I’m fine!”

The answer was heard from a few metres away. He turned towards the voice and saw Irina leaning against a tree trunk with her swords crossed in a X in front of her.

Fortunately, her defensive posture managed to parry the attack. She still received damage but only 3% of her health was reduced. In reality, it would only be a light scratch.

But! Even so!

“That damn lizard!”

The T-rex's brutality (?) was enough to make Ark snap. It dared to give Ark's girlfriend a wound? Ark stood in front of him! He couldn't forgive it!

"Go to hell!"

Ark growled out as he lifted his sword.

"Kafra Fencing 4th style, Piercing!"

He stomped his feet as his body turned into a ray of light and flew forward. And he crashed into the T-rex's dirty jaw that injured Irina! The Equalizer drew blood from the T-rex's jaw.

Kuwaaaah!

The T-rex stepped back from the pain. However, Ark's lid had already been open so he showed no mercy.

"This was the mouth that injured Irina-nim? Huh? This mouth?"

Ark persistently held onto the T-rex's jaw and poked it. It was turned into a rag as blood poured down the T-rex's chin and its health steadily decreased.

Of course, the T-rex wasn't just quietly letting him poke its chin. The 1 metre large claw and tail were brandished in a resistance attempt. A powerful attack with a large weigh behind it!

Kwa kwa kwang! Kwajijik!

The trees ended up being squashed. Any other user would become terrified. But right now the T-rex's opponent was Ark. He didn't care that he was fighting against a huge T-rex. Ark would show him what a man looked like!

“Break Kinesis!”

Ark's eyes flashed as an explosion occurred in front of the T-rex's eyes. Break Kinesis was an Elim technique that caused Force to explode! It could inflict direct damage on the enemy but the splash damage of the explosion could also cause indirect blows. The damage was minimal but it was different when Break Kinesis was used on the eyes.

Kuwaaaah!

The T-rex closed its eyes tightly. Ark lowered his knees and jumped up. And then he brandished the Equalizer as he fell towards its neck.

“Sonic Sword!”

The reason Ark focused on the T-rex's lower jaw wasn't just being it had injured Irina. Most animals, including reptiles were covered in a thick leather. On the other hand, the bottom portion of the jaw and the belly was covered in thin leather.

It was the same with the T-rex.

He could tell with a glance that the leather was thinner. In other words, it was a place where the outer defense was vulnerable. Ark had experienced countless battles so he instinctively grasped the weakness of the T-rex.

And the neck was one of the weakest areas!

Hwaaaaack!

The sword of light slashed the neck and blood rose. Ark attacked without a break that the T-rex couldn't even resist. His attacks pushed back an opponent that was 10 times larger than him. A man giving a performance for his woman! Strong! And....

Snap!

At that moment, Ark fell down. And the T-rex's teeth gripped onto one of his arms.

“Ah! A-Ark-nim!”

Irina cried out and hurriedly lifted her swords. However, the T-rex's mouth closed before she could use her sword. Irina had a devastated expression.

“I am not your prey.”

A voice mixed with derision was then heard from the T-rex. The T-rex's fangs had stopped a few centimetres away from Ark. No, it was lodged in a blue glass surrounding Ark.

The transparent glass was his Survivor skill, Mind Shield! The intermediate shield reduced damage by 50~70%. It also stopped the T-rex from chewing through his body.

“I will let you know what happens when you pick up anything to eat.”

Ark grinned as he looked at the T-rex. A black light then emerged from the Equalizer.

“Khafra Fencing 3rd style! Galaxy Sword!”

Pepeng!

The light from the Equalizer poured out and dozens of swords flew around the T-rex. A black swirl with the T-rex inside!

-Critical hit!

There was no need to verify the message. The T-rex shed blood

and staggered before collapsing like a broken doll. As it lost strength. Ark pushed off the T-rex and turned towards Irina.

“Are you alright?”

The tail had hit him a few times so several areas were throbbing with pain. The T-rex’s fangs had also slightly penetrated through the Mind Shield so blood was pouring down his forehead.

Ark put on a fake casual expression as he grinned fiercely.

.....There was a reason for it!

A man had to show a strong appearance. Why would he want her to worry about his wounds?

“Ark-nim....”

It wasn’t surprising that appreciation rose in Irina’s eyes.

‘Okay, this is it! I will go with this route!’

While Ark was busy thinking.

Kung! Kwajijik! Kung! Kwajijik! Kung! Kwajijik!

There were uncontrollably noises from the surrounding

environment. And shadows started to tower over the trees. Panic appeared on Ark and Irina's faces at the same time.

“....There wasn't just one?”

Heads of the T-rex rose above the trees! The T-rex surrounded Ark and Irina. The final number was 11! There was the sound of trees being crushed from all sides.

“Ark-nim, we can't deal with that many! We should run before it is too late!”

Irina shouted with a desperate expression. Ark shook his head at her words.

The T-rex wasn't an easy monster. There wasn't 2~3 but 11. It wasn't a time to look good in front of his girlfriend. He would just be miserably eaten by the T-rex.

However, Ark was unable to withdraw. It wasn't due to showing a weak form in front of Irina but actually the Silver Star.

‘The Silver Star's stealth has been turned off. The T-rex has already been gathered so the Silver Star is likely to be their target if I run away. The Silver Star will be defenseless against the giant monsters.’

“....It is like this.”

A thought suddenly popped up in his head. The reason why the Silver Star was in stealth mode in this place.

‘Was Rapid attacked by these guys shortly after he landed here? Rapid and the group could deal with them. But there is a risk that the Silver Star would be damaged. Maybe Rapid turned on the Silver Star’s stealth mode and lured them to another place.’

There was still a question remaining.

Rapid’s group had arrived here four days ago. They must still be alive or else the dead members would’ve revived at S-20. In other words, they had safely survived the T-rex’s raid. Nevertheless, he couldn’t understand why the Silver Star was left in such a dangerous place without any protectors.

However, he couldn’t answer those questions now.

The Silver Star’s stealth had been released. And like most skills, a certain amount of time was required before he could use stealth again. Anyway, if he retreated then he couldn’t guarantee the safety of his precious Silver Star.

Then there was only one way left!

“Armour armament!”

A flash of light appeared from Ark's body. The light caused the space to part and armour appeared. The texture of the armour was like the skin of an insect and it covered Ark.

It was Ark's battle suit Hyper Drone! The carapace covered Ark clutched his sword and raised his head.

He couldn't give up. He had no choice but to win the fight. He had spent many days and nights raising his level and polishing his skills. And the only way to verify his performance was to fight.

“This welcome is a bit....”

His eyes inside the black helmet shone with a red light as he gazed at the group of T-rex. At the same time, heat started to emerge from Ark's body.

“Come! I will teach you who the real predator is!”

Pajiji! Pajiji!

The forest was covered with a dense fog. Hajin was using tools to repair the damage on the upper deck caused by the huge swarm of bats. Something suddenly caught Camel's eyes and he shouted.

“.....!”

“Huh? What is it?”

“....Stop using that metal worker!”

The tool was turned off. But Camel’s voice wasn’t the only thing heard.

Kung! Kung! Kwajijijk! Kwajijijk!

Sounds were one after another from the other side of the fog. Hajin had been unable to hear the noise use to the metal worker so he turned to Camel with a confused expression.

“W-What is that?”

“I don’t know if it is a problem but the sound is coming from Captain Irina-nim’s direction. But Captain-nim isn’t capable of making those type of sounds.”

“Then perhaps.....?”

“I suppose we should go look.”

Camel nodded with a firm expression. And he shouted as he quickly pulled out a rifle.

“Even if she is a woman, Captain-nim is an elite warrior of the Galactic Federation. And she is with Ark-nim. I don’t think there is any need to worry but....that sound is bothering me. It is likely that they are being attacked by a monster with a significant size. Furthermore, there are several of them. Considering the huge swarm of bats, Ark and Irina-nim’s safety isn’t guaranteed. Hajin, hurry up. We need to move quickly to help both of them.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Hajin put down the tools and jumped off the deck. And he rushed towards Camel while holding his machine gun. They rushed through dozens of metres covered in fog. The roars being heard in the fog became faster and more violent....

Pepeng! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A huge object was rushing towards both of them.

“Heok! What? Hajin, avoid it!”

Camel and Hajin flew to the left. The giant object broken the tree branches before stopping. Camel then raised his head with confusion.

“T-this?”

The object lying down in front of them was a dinosaur!

A 10 metre large dinosaur. Although it was surprising to see a T-rex in a place like this, the status of the T-rex was even more shocking. The body was tattered and mangled, the head crushed and the tongue stretched out.

Someone had murdered it!

‘Who the hell did this?’

They could guess but....

Kwa kwak! Wiiing!

At that moment, a huge shape appeared in the fog. Hajin saw a giant T-rex rushing through the trees. And it swept its tail towards them! The T-rex’s tail could literally smash them.

“Ah! D-danger....!”

Camel reflexively exclaimed. Then dozens of strands of light shot out and wrapped around the T-rex’s neck.

In the next moment, something sprinted up towards the T-rex’s head. The crystal golem stood on the shoulder and fiercely struck the jaws. There was a sound as the T-rex’s head moved up, exposing the neck.

There was an ensuing flash of white light that horizontally split the T-rex's neck, causing blood to gush out. The young man slipped because of the body and slid to the ground. However, the T-rex flinched and retreated backwards. It felt fear towards the presence using its body like a slide.

Overwhelming! The small presence that seemed to overwhelm the T-rex with his pressure. The T-rex was puzzled but Camel was also the same. Camel knew the identity of the presence. He knew he was strong. However.....

“What it this about?”

Camel swallowed his saliva as he spoke.

“Ark.....”

“18 Barrage!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Steel fists moved at breakneck speed with the yell. It hit the leather covering the belly every time and pushed back the T-rex. The T-rex was 10 metres while Ark wearing the battle suit was only 2 metres. The size difference was 5 times!

A T-rex 5 times larger was pushed back with Ark's fist. And once 18 Barrage finished, the belly area was battered and shedding blood. The T-rex fell and caused trees to be crushed with debris flying in every direction.

"Phew!"

Ark took a deep breath.

Heated air flew from his body like steam. It was like a nuclear fusion was taking place in Ark's body as it seemed like flames would spew from his mouth. He had used a tremendous amount of energy in a short period of time.

'But this isn't an unpleasant feeling!'

His body was burning up but he actually felt like it was refreshing. It felt like he was throwing heavy clothes off himself.

'And after a long time, I can finally just focus on the battle.'

When he thought back, most of his battles had been in a team.

Of course, a team was helpful in many ways. The growth of an organization or Agent was important in Galaxian and developing it could be fun.

However, it was a hindrance to Ark's individual ability growing.

Teamwork was important in a group battle. No matter how well he battled alone, it could cause a team to lose their balance. Moreover, Ark was more focused on playing a leadership role and focusing on maintaining the balance of the team.

He had suffered through many fierce battlefields. But Ark couldn't exert 100% of his power in those fights. It was good since the result was their victory. Ark had been thinking that it was better to be safe than in danger. However, his thoughts were different when faced with a crisis.

'Facing 11 T-rex at once! Dammit, I am scared! My breathing feels like it is blocked! But if I fail then they will turn the Silver Star into scrap metal! Irina will also be in danger! Dammit! I really hate situations like this! I really hate....'

A thrilling feeling. It was like when he first started in New World.

He raised his level at night, had a bloody nose from raising his skills, gathered equipment and these efforts were seen in his character's information window!

Showing 100% of his capability in his fight! Whether it ended in victory or defeat, Ark was oriented towards combat. And this was once such fight.

The reason why Ark was heating up! His warrior type gaming sense gained in New World had woken up. Of course, he would only be satisfied with the outcome if he won the battle. Fight and

win at all cost. That premise lay underneath every battle.

‘Power!’

Ark showed his natural determination. That’s why he fully armed himself after the emergence of the T-rex.

-Battle suit <Hyper Drone Lv.2> has been equipped!

The battle suit will raise your body’s stats dramatically.

<All stats +35%, environmental adaptability +30% (80%), reduced speed of satiety falling 20% (50%), fall damage reduced 30%>

* The synchronization between the body and battle suit has changed the skills ‘Binding Sword,’ ‘Mind Shield’ and ‘Stealth’ to ‘Armed Binding Sword,’ ‘Armed Mind Shield’ and ‘Armed Stealth.’

-Special item effect <Charenjok’s Token: Octopus’s Blessing> has been triggered!

High density nutrients like DHA and EPA have been injected into your body.

Thanks to the infusion of nutrients, the body's physical capabilities have been activated for a period of time.

<All stats +10% for 30 minutes. Cool down time: 2 hours>

-Rune Carving: Kuon has been used.

<All allies within 100 metres will have their health and defense increased by 20% for 30 minutes.>

-You have consumed unrefined foods.

A toxic sensation has hit your tongue. However, Steel Stomach is able to neutralize the toxin and absorb the nutrients.

<Satiety +40%, Strength has increased by 10 for 10 minutes>

The battle suit and Octopus's Blessing boosted his stats by 45%! He also used the Kuon rune that increased health and defense by 20% and eating the centipedes on Ikyullos had increased Strength by 10 points. He mobilized all the products and equipment collected so far.

‘I don’t know when I used all of this together.’

He was satisfied with it. But this wasn’t the only buff Ark received. It wasn’t information that would show on the information window but....

-My girlfriend is watching!

He was highly motivated! Somehow, his power seemed to rise! It felt like his abilities had increased to 200%!

Ark was a man before he was a user. And every man was like Superman in front of his girlfriend. Irina’s presence itself was a buff.

Ark discovered this truth after fighting the T-rex. Ark also had the crystal golem next to him.

‘I shouldn’t let the T-rex attack me directly. The energy shield is useless against these guys. It is better if I use Bao to distract them.’

“Summon Bao!”

Ark had been thinking that when he summoned Bao.

-Huh? H-Hyung-nim!

Bao looked at Ark with amazed eyes. Ark was also amazed. So far, Bao had never called Ark Hyung-nim. There is only one reason. For some reason, Basak's personality inside Bao had returned.

In other words.....

"Hyung-nim? Don't tell me, are you Basak?"

-Yes, Hyung-nim! Basak!

Bao's personality had turned back to Basak. He had disappeared after returning from the ghost planet so why was Basak's personality back?

Ark couldn't comprehend it. He naturally wanted to ask questions. However, the T-rex was already rushing after Bao, no Basak had been summoned. It was like the SKIP button had been pressed.

"Basak, you can see that the enemy is coming. We will talk about these matters later. For now, let's concentrate on the enemy in front of us."

-I understand Hyung-nim!

Basak nodded as he stood next to Ark. The crystal golem was only level 50 after Ikyullos. He didn't have great expectations but a

summons was better than nothing. Bao was a summon that didn't really listen to Ark.

But it was different when talking about Basak's personality. Basak was a NPC whose loyalty was only to Ark! He had also experienced numerous battles on Muratio Star with Ark. This was shown in the battle with the T-rex.

Kuwaaaah!

Immediately after killing one. Another T-rex had emerged from the adjacent trees. And the T-rex scratched the ground with its claws before trying to swallow Ark!

-No! Blast!

Basak shouted as he instinctively moved his body. Unlike Bao, Basak didn't hesitate to throw his body to save Ark from the dinosaur.

And the Blast skill connected! The awls flew from Basak and hit the T-rex's head. Of course, the T-rex just shook off the discomfort.

“Welcome to the alter ego!”

But Ark's movements were faster. His clones rushed towards the T-rex in order to distract them. Basak quickly stuck sharp things in the top of the T-rex's eyes. Thanks to that, it was easier for Ark

and Basak as the T-rex closed its eyes.

Pepepepeng!

Flames gushed out between the T-rex's fangs.

It was due to the explosion of a grenade that Basak threw. Even a dinosaur wouldn't be fine if a hand grenade exploded in its mouth. The T-rex stumbled as it shed blood from the torn flesh.

He didn't give it time to breathe!

"Armed Binding Sword!"

Ark shouted as his chest area opened. At the same time, dozens of beads of light shot out like lasers.

And the moment the light tangled around the head of the T-rex, Ark carried Basak on his shoulders and flew towards the jaws of the T-rex. There was no need for separate commands.

-Ooh! Blast!

There was no time to waste on useless words. Basak read Ark's intentions and aimed straight towards the T-rex's jaw. And the T-rex's head lifted the moment Basak's awls hit it!

“Sonic Sword!”

The ensuing flash of white light horizontally split the T-rex's neck, causing blood to gush out. That was the final straw.

The T-rex winced and retreated before collapsing to the ground after the series of attacks that Camel saw. However, he had no time to breathe.

Kuwaaaah!

The T-rex waiting in the back roared! The earth continued to shake as T-rex rushed out. The T-rex gave off a huge pressure but Ark was already engulfed in the heat of battle.

“Can't you obediently open your mouth for me? Armed Binding Sword!”

Light once again emerged from Ark. And the light that flew forward like a laser tangled around one leg!

“Hyper Booster!”

The skill of his battle suit, Hyper Booster was triggered!

Flames emerged from Ark's heels and his body shot forward at a tremendous rate. And he tied the T-rex's two legs together. The T-rex naturally fell to the ground since its legs were tied together.

“Does it hurt? But the real pain will occur now.”

-Blast!

“Sonic Sword!”

Ark and Basak attacked the T-rex that fell.

‘Yes, this summon is much better!’

The personality of his summon was completely different. Until now, the golem had been more of a hindrance than a help but Basak’s personality was the right combination with Ark.

He once again realized the importance of communication. Now the golem had +power!

‘But.....’

Ark was definitely overwhelming the T-rex. However, the situation wasn’t entirely good. There was one reason.

Kwaaaaah! Kwaaaaah! Kwaaaaah!

Ark and Basak was stepping on the fallen T-rex when another 3 rushed out. This was the reason why the situation wasn’t good.

Even if it was a 1 on 1 fight, Ark needed to deal with 11 T-rex. It was different if it ended up as 11 to 1. This was the reason why Ark burnt through tremendous energy to push back the T-rex.

The T-rex didn't rush as a group. They appeared from different directions in the forest. It was hard to surround Ark so he took advantage of that to reverse the situation. The location was also different from the place where Ark first arrived.

Therefore Ark was able to make it a 1 on 1 situation. But that had its own limitations. The dinosaurs would eventually gather as the battle continued.

“Basak, to the right!”

-Yes, Blast!

Basak rushed away from the T-rex that had its ankles tied up. Basak was level 50 so he couldn't deal with 2 T-rex alone. In the end, Basak was pushed back by the massive bodies. Basak shouted as he rolled across the ground.

-Ugh! Hyung-nim, I'm really sorry! Avoid it!

“Dammit, Hyper Booster!”

Ark activated the booster and rushed towards Basak. If it was the

former golem then Ark wouldn't care but he couldn't let Basak get crushed under the sole of the T-rex's foot.

Thankfully Ark could rescue Basak but he became surrounded by 3 T-rex.

'I should prepare the booster in order to avoid any damage.'

And just as Ark was quickly looking around.

Wiiing!

There was a sound from behind him. An warrior clad in sleek, white armour!

Ark was briefly confused by the emergence of the warrior. Ark wasn't the only one here who could use a battle suit. The warrior wearing the sleek, streamlined battle suit was....

Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

"Ark-nim, this way!"

Not surprisingly, the one wielding two swords with great speed at the T-rex was Irina. Ark was able to break through the siege using the booster and Irina's help.

“Irina-nim!”

“You were so absorbed in the battle that you forgot about me.”

“I didn’t forget.”

“But you didn’t think I could help?”

Ark blushed and scratched his head at Irina’s words.

“I might not be as good as Ark-nim but I still managed to reach the captain rank. I didn’t come along just to watch. My strength is sufficient to deal with 1~2 of them.”

Tu tu tu tu! Pepeng!

Just as Irina was saying this. Bullets and grenades struck the feet of a nearby T-rex.

“Captain-nim, we are here!”

The ones firing the machine guns and rifles were Hajin and Camel. And Irina looked at them with a smile before correcting herself.

“We can even deal with 3.”

“Yes, that is enough.”

Ark smiled and nodded.

That wasn’t the end. Apart from the 3 T-rex surrounding Ark, Irina, Camel and Hajin, there were another 5 remaining. 5 was a large number of opponents to deal with all at once. But Ark still had a trump card remaining.

‘I should properly use the bodies of the 3 T-rex.’

“Come out, Shire!”

Ark checked the T-rex before raising his arm and shouting. A blue light moved with his fingertips! Ark started to draw a vivid character in the air. The moment that the character was completed!

“Rune Carving, Ikram!”

Ark’s voice rang out as the Ikram rune formed!

On the ghost planet, Ark had fought the insubstantial Dregs. And he fought the metal Nakuma on Ikyullos. Thanks to that, he had been forced to seal off the Ikram rune.

However, it was different when talking about the mindless T-rex. The flesh of the T-rex was a huge sacrifice! The rune in the shape

of Anubis penetrated the bodies of the T-rex and the flesh started shaking.

The hell hounds! Once again, a hell hound would be formed while the head was the shape of the sacrifice. That was meaningless.

No, it was significant once the skill was promoted from Lv. 1 to Lv. 2.

-The rating of the Ikram rune has increased.

Ikram (Intermediate, Active): By drawing the rune that symbolizes Anubis in the Shire, the user can offer a sacrifice to summon the hell hound that guards the underworld.

The ability of the summoned hell hound depends on the original ability of the sacrifice.

With intermediate Ikram rune, the hell hound will gain the physical characteristics of the sacrifice and the hell hound's ability would rise even further.

However, the intermediate hell hound will consume 2 mana per second.

<The summoned hell hound will gain the physical characteristics of the sacrifice. 2 mana will be consumed every

second.>

This was the information for Ikram Lv. 2.

The unique feature of Lv.2 Ikram was that the hell hound gained the physical characteristics of the sacrifices. And the T-rex's largest physical attribute was its size. The attribute that the Hell hound reflected....

“Hik! W-what is going on?”

“M-monster! A huge dinosaur dog!”

Camel and Hajin's eyes popped out as they screamed. A hell hound with a size equivalent to the T-rex was born in front of them.

Of course, it only had 20~30% of the T-rex's actual abilities. The rise to Lv.2 didn't make a big difference in that area. The size was just similar to intimidation.

However, that alone was sufficient.

“Go, dinosaur dogs!”

Kwaaaaah! Kwaaaaah! Kwaaaaah!

The 3 dinosaur dogs rushed towards the T-rex at Ark's command. Of course, their abilities wasn't equal so the health of the hell hounds fell quickly. No rather than a fight, it seemed like they were just tearing and eating at each other.

Ark's mana dropped at a tremendous rate.

The hell hounds consumed 2 mana per second and he summoned 3 so he consumed 6 mana per second. Even if force was converted to mana, it wold be hard to maintain the consumption. It wasn't a lot but Basak was also a burden.

This was the reason why Ark refrained from using skills that consumed excessive amounts of force.

'If I give up on other skills then I can maintain the hell hound for 2 minutes tops. The T-rex needs to be torn up before then. If it is that much.....'

Ark held his sword and looked around. Irina, Hajin and Camel had joined forces to deal with 3 T-rex. It was a breathtaking scene but it wasn't a big issue. And the 3 hell hounds were blocking the remaining 5 T-rex.

'.....It is enough!'

"Basak, let's go! Hyper Booster!"

Ark and Basak flew towards the T-rex. Irina, Camel and Hajin

were overwhelmed at the ensuing battle.

The start of combat used Armed Stealth! While the T-rex was blinded by the light, he used the booster's massive speed to knock it down while the legs were already tied up. And the T-rex that was the target of rapid attacks died without much resistance. And another hell hound was resurrected with the corpse.

Ark's power. The advantage of the Ikram rune was to reduce the enemy's power while raising his own power.

After that, he took care of the T-rex that the hell hounds were distracting. Ark took care of the T-rex with the hell hounds before going to help Irina's group. The remaining 2 opponents were overwhelmingly killed.

“This is ridiculous! He is a hero but....”

“An elite....”

Camel and Hajin had blank expressions.

In fact, the person most surprised was Ark. He couldn't believe that he could fight so well. Of course, this was the impact of 'various buffs + Irina.' However, those effects were only secondary.

In fact, Ark had used all his power. In other words, the skills that Ark showed had been brought from New World into Galaxian. Ark

hadn't realized it until now due to the group battles.

Kwa kwak! Kakakakak!

‘Yes, I was originally like this!’

A sharp grin spread on Ark's face. He had forgotten for a while. The laws of physics weren't the only things applied to the game.

Strength depended on the effort. Not just the users' level and skills!

Ark had taken this obvious fact for granted. A clear objective and behaviour would be rewarded in some way.

His smile spread as he thought of the thrill of fighting huge fangs and claws.

‘This is why I love playing games!’

“Equalizer! Berserker!”

The Equalizer burst forward as he brimmed with enthusiasm. It looked the same as before but the sword was filled with more power as it headed towards the T-rex.

Space 2: Those Who Are Abandoned

Pushu!

-The Hyper Drone's mana has been exhausted.

<It will be returned to its dimension and reusing it is impossible until the mana recharges>

The message popped up as his battle suit split apart.

“Pant pant pant!”

Ark breathed harshly as he was drenched in sweat.

‘Damn, I overdid it.’

Berserker was certainly over.

1,000 Force was consumed for Berserker and it dropped to the bottom due to that required to summon the hell hounds.

Berserker increased his skill damage but due to his Force being low, none of his skills were available. It was doing something stupid like selling his car only to buy tires.

Blood rushed to his head and he couldn't think properly. Thanks to that, Ark couldn't properly use his skills. Well, he still won but....

‘....It dropped dead.’

Taking care of the T-rex without any skills wasn't an easy task.

There were several reasons, especially Irina, that enabled Ark to somehow concentrate enough to handle the rest of the T-rex before his mana ran out. His worked his body tirelessly beyond its limits.

He felt like he would collapse at any minute.

“Ark-nim, are you okay?”

Irina came up from behind him. Ark took a deep breath before turning around.

“Yes? What?”

“No, I hope it wasn't too unreasonable....”

“You don't need to say that. This much is nothing to me. As you know, I am ‘that’ Ark. In those days, I fought tough battles while still eating three meals. My level of training is different from other

users. Please don't worry. Hat hat hat hat!"

A man was indeed a sad animal.

"Then I'm glad but...."

Ark's face was red and dripping with sweat but Irina didn't say anything. Camel and Hajin then came running. They surrounded Ark and started spitting at him with excitement.

"Wah! Ark-nim, awesome!"

"Yes, you were amazing in Amara but it is nothing compared to now. Didn't you fight casually against a huge monster? Doesn't that mean you are on a stronger level? How strong did you grow?"

"It is really surprising."

But like he said earlier, Ark was also inwardly surprised.

He had been steadily raising his level so of course he would become stronger. However, he mainly fought in a team instead of solo so he hadn't realized just how truly strong he became.

But now he realized with certainty. He might not have felt it but Ark had surely become stronger. Ark could confirm it in his heart. Incidentally, Ark realized this in front of Irina so it made him even happier.

His inner thoughts were difficult to control.

‘Huhuhu! Yes, compliment me more. Praise me so that Irina can hear it! More!’

But this idea....

“Stop. It isn’t that great. And did I defeat the dinosaurs alone? If it wasn’t for Irina-nim and you two then I wouldn’t be safe.”

Ark said with fake humility.

According to his experience, it was good to talk to NPCs in this manner. Camel and Hajin nodded as they stared at Ark with admiring eyes.

“So talented and humble! No wonder why he is the man that Captain-nim is paying attention to.”

“Yes, I think that as well. In fact, I had been jealous of the subtle atmosphere that flowed between Ark-nim and Captain-nim! Now I’m going to give that up.”

“Tsk, you haven’t given up yet?”

“Why? That wasn’t what I meant. Anyway, I can see a proposal of marriage between these two people. Society can see it. No, I am

glad to see it!"

The conversation headed in a strange direction.

"No, that is a little...."

"Eh? What's that? What's with this reaction? You don't want to? You don't like it?"

"No, it's not that I don't like it but...."

"Then well done! Like a man! How brave! Do it! I assure you that Irina-nim won't turn you down! Ever since Amara, Captain-nim has always talked about Ark-nim! Ark-nim also likes Captain-nim! Then it is perfect!"

"Sergeant Hajin!"

Irina shouted angrily. And Hajin flinched and was too frightened to speak anymore.

"Stop the useless gossip. We are working, not on a vacation. Once again, this isn't a place to play around. You are making it difficult for Ark-nim. Ark-nim, I'm sorry. Please understand that my men were just being playful."

"No, I am fine...."

Ark scratched his head and said with a small, muffled voice.

Irina flinched and looked at Ark. And her face turned red. Irina looked at Ark with blank eyes before he hurriedly raised his hand.

“Ah, no! I wouldn’t propose in a place like this...ah, no! Not that I would anywhere else....ah, no! I’m not saying I would never....that is....”

Irina’s face reddened even further.

“If you want to...but...so you see....”

Irina blushed as Ark’s words became more twisted. He finally shut his mouth and the atmosphere subtly changed. Camel and Hajin laughed as they saw Ark and Irina’s red faces.

“Ah, their faces seem to be burning.”

“Kuk kuk kuk! They are completely children.”

“Camel! Hajin!”

“Yes! We aren’t going to saying anything!”

Camel and Hajin quickly replied to Irina. Then Irina sighed and said.

“Take care of the loot.”

“Yes! I will do as you command!”

Camel and Hajin quickly scattered and ran to the corpses of the T-rex.

The atmosphere became stranger after the two of them disappeared. Irina seemed to still have something that she wanted to say. But he couldn't get a grasp of the situation. Irina hesitated for a moment before turning to Ark and said.

“What level is Ark-nim now?”

“Huh?”

Ark scratched his head and replied.

“A little over 150.”

“150.....”

Irina murmured with a sigh. Why did she ask about his level and then sigh with relief? Ark couldn't understand Irina's behaviour so he had a ‘?’ in his head. However, Irina just shook her head and said.

“I am going to need time.”

“Yes? What are you saying?”

“It’s not a big deal. Ark-nim should rest a little bit. I will help Hajin and Camel pick up the spoils. Ark-nim did the most in the fight so I should do at least this much.”

“No, that....”

“And about the misunderstanding....”

Irina continued in a small voice.

“....I don’t dislike it.”

Irina ran off after saying those words.

Ark felt any hesitation in his heart snap. Ark was still confused about her actions but he wasn’t an idiot.

In fact, Ark and Irina hadn’t talked clearly about their relationship. Ark had confessed and she had met his parents but they still hadn’t clearly defined their relationship.

Of course, sometimes it wasn’t necessary to talk about the

relationship between a man and a woman.

Ark also knew that much. He didn't ask openly but he wanted to hear it. However, he never imagined that he would hear it in a place like this.

His feeling? Of course he felt exuberant.

He wanted to jump up and give her a tight hug! But he refrained. This wasn't the place for it. How could he create such a scene when surrounded by the corpses of the T-rex? Let alone propose?

It was ridiculous.

'That Hajin said some embarrassing words but he wasn't wrong....'

Anyway, the result was very nice! He wanted to pat Hajin's head.

'I struggled a little bit during the battle against the T-rex and I still don't know the whereabouts of Rapid's group. However, I've found the Silver Star and clarified my relationship with Irina. This trip is starting to feel somewhat good? It is an atmosphere that seems like a jackpot would occur. No, this is my first dungeon exploration with Irina so that is already a jackpot. It will be a jackpot even if nothing drops. Okay, let's concentrate on the expedition now. Not even cold water can get rid of my good mood. I will use this opportunity to appeal to her. Okay, the goal of this expedition isn't to find a jackpot but to look cool in front of Irina!'

Ark was once again filled with a burning motivation. But he needed to check something before that.

“I’ve recovered a little bit. Now, come. Baius Golem.”

Ark waved his left arm and the Baius Shield liquefied and turned into the golem.

In the excitement of the second half of the battle, Ark was forced to release the golem summoning.

So he hadn’t confirmed it yet. Why Basak’s personality had returned. He welcomed the return of Basak’s personality but he needed to grasp the circumstances behind it.

“Basak?”

–Yes, Hyung-nim. It’s me!

“What is going on? Didn’t you say that I was unlikely to see you again after parting on the ghost planet?”

–I don’ know what appeared.

“You don’t know?”

-I have no idea what happened after we parted....

The golem, no Basak scratched his head.

-There is no concept of time inside the Baius Shield but something strange happened. Like I mentioned previously, I lose my will when entering the Baius Shield. It would become mixed in with all the egos of the Casain elders who entered previously. But I suddenly regained myself. The reason is became all the Casain ancestors left the Baius Shield.

“They left?”

-Yes, I don't know what it was but a tremendous power sucked out all the Casain elders. When I regained myself, I discovered that a large number of egos had already exited the Baius Shield. And I was also dragged out by an enormous suction power.

Basak desperately resisted. At this point, Basak hadn't completely regained himself yet. Nevertheless, Basak had a thought.

If all the egos left the Baius Shield then it would just be an ordinary shield. And he knew from the ghost planet that Ark was the current owner of the Baius Shield. If the Baius Shield lost its strength then Ark would be affected.

So he couldn't allow it! Basak's loyalty meant that he desperately resisted in order to protect the Baius Shield. Then a miracle occurred. Basak suddenly felt the sucking power disappear. And....

-The next thing I knew, I was alone.

‘Then perhaps....’

Ark had an idea after listening to Basak’s words. While he was fighting the Eisyeon Nakuma on Ikyullos. At that time, the golem had shown a strange reaction and a message had popped up.

-Summoning release of the Baius Golem has failed!

An unknown curse has adversely affected the spiritual connection between the shield and the golem.

If left untreated for a long time, the mysterious ability of the Baius Shield may disappear.

A swift response is required!

‘If left untreated for a long time, the mysterious ability of the Baius Shield may disappear. And the mysterious power of the Baius Shield was the egos contained inside. In other words, the disappearance of the mysterious power is the disappearance of the egos!’

This was the final clue.

That's right. The black shapes flowing from the body of the golems that were absorbed by the Nakuma must have been the egos inside the shield. It was the true identity of the sucking force that Basak noticed.

And it stopped when Ark triggered Force Explosion. As a result, Basak was the only ego remaining inside the Baius Shield.

'Wait? Does that mean the Eisyeon Nakuma absorbs souls? Then the black spirits that emerged from the Nakuma on Ikyullos were the souls of the dead? In the end, what exactly is the identity of the Eisyeon Nakuma?'

Only one question was answered, others popped up. However, Ark didn't think deeply about the problem. Ark had already defeated the suspicious enemy on his planet. And there was going to be a Galactic Federation institute built so the identity would be revealed to Ark one day.

The important thing now was that Basak's ego had returned! He didn't know whether it was lucky or not but Basak was the only ego remaining due to the Nakuma.

In other words, the golem was now completely Basak!

'The one thing I'm worried about....'

There might be some trouble with the growth of the Baius Shield

as a result.

However, Basak was sure about that part.

-The egos and power are different. The souls absorbed inside the shield are disconnected from the power. The egos might've left but the power still remains. But that power was expressed through an ego. It was unsure if all the power could be pulled out with the ancestors gone.

In some cases, it might be detrimental to the growth.

-Baius Shield Lv. 6 (Artifact)

Item Type: Energy Shield Wearer Restriction: Elim's Heir only

Defense: 500 Durability: ∞

Shield Quantity: 8,000/8,000

-Baius Golem

Type: Defense Level: 56

Health: 660 Defense: 132

Attack: 66 Special Ability: Blast

This was the current stats and skills of the Baius Shield and the golem. He took a growth type equipment for granted but it was ridiculously good compared to when he first saw it.

Well, it was all thanks to Ark's efforts! Whenever the golem gained 10 levels, the Baius Shield would gain 1 so it was currently level 6. Each level increased defense by 50 so the shield currently had 500 defense.

The golem also had rapid growth. Initially, it would be smashed by one or two hits from a monster but the defense and health jumped and it could deal with weak monsters. If the golem grew steadily then he would have significant power when he reached Ark's level. He didn't have any expectations of the golem but it had been growing steadily.

So Ark was bound to be worried. However, Ark quickly shook his head.

'The water has already been spilled. The egos have already been absorbed by the Nakuma so I can't worry about it now. And I don't need to worry as long as the stats are maintained. No, Basak is worth it even if there is a problem with the growth!'

Rather than a wayward level 100 warrior, it was better to have a loyal level 10 warrior. The golem was now Basak.

Basak was a NPC that Ark had missed. Ark laughed as he looked at Basak.

“That is another matter! It is good to see you again.”

-H-Hyung-nim....!

Basak stared at Ark with thrilled eyes. And he kneeled down and shouted.

-I didn't keep my vow in my past life! But the Great God ensured that I can fulfil my oath again! I Basak, swear my vow once again. Even if this body is broken a thousand times, I will protect Hyung-nim!

This NPC was good. There was no way he would betray Ark.

‘But he is still a child....’

“Ark-nim!”

Irina returned at that time.

“Sorry, I should've helped but....”

“It’s nothing. I told you to take a break. By the way, that golem....?”

“Oh, is this the first time Irina-nim saw him? This is my summon.”

“Summon? You also have a summon?”

“The summon is attached to an equipment, similar to a genie in a magic lamp. He is lacking compared to a genie but....”

—Sorry that I am lacking! I’ll work hard!

Basak grew with every level but he was only 120 cm so he still seemed like a child.

“A crystal doll, how cute.”

—Doll! I am a golem! And cute? I am a proud Guardian of the Casain clan! It is an insult to call me cute! Please correct it! And who are you?

Irina smiled at Basak’s cheeky tone and replied.

“I’m sorry, I’m called Irina.”

-Irina? Are you Hyung-nim's lover? Or sister in law?

“L-lover? Sister in law?”

Irina looked perplexed at Basak's question while Camel and Hajin behind her were looking excitedly at Ark. Really, the NPCs joined together to make today really difficult....

“Basak, you should return!”

-Ah! Hyung-nim! Wait a minute....!

Ark quickly released Basak's summoning.

“Hum hum, did you need something?”

“Ah, yes! I picked these up for you.”

Irina replied as she handed him the spoils from the T-rex's corpses.

-T-Rex's Canine x 3

Item Type: Synthetic Material

Fangs from a T-rex that had become extinct a long time ago.

Several species in the galaxy believe that special powers are contained in the body of powerful monsters. The development of science and faith turned it into a superstition but scientific civilization proved that it wasn't just a superstition. The analysis of genetic information extracted from the body of monsters proved that there was indeed a special power. In particular, accessory construction companies liked materials that are scarce.

-T-rex's Leather x 5

Item Type: Synthetic Material

Leather from a T-rex that had become extinct a long time ago.

Leather craftsmen on the space frontier can analyse the genetic structure of the skin in order to increase the resilience and strength by dozens of times. The processed leather is hard to be imitated with artificial materials. Despite the advancements in modern science and civilization, the leather of monsters is still used as material for armours. In the hands of a superior craftsman, the T-rex's leather can make a great, lightweight armour. Of course, you need to have enough money to pay the outstanding craftsman....

A total of 8 fangs and leather.

The loot was bad for 11 T-rex but some of them had been transformed into hell hounds so the loot dropped was extremely low.

“Material items.”

He couldn’t know the price until it was sold. It was quite rare so hopefully he could obtain a good price for it.

However, Ark didn’t care. Anyway, his purpose was to rescue the Silver Hand and to impress Irina so he didn’t care about minor loot. He couldn’t look stingy in front of his girlfriend!

“We can worry about the distribution after the expedition is over.”

“I think that is for the best.”

Irina nodded as she packed the spoils.

“By the way, there is a problem. I wasn’t expecting the dungeon to be such a large underground world. I can’t get a sense of direction. Moreover, the fog makes it hard to see.... We need to search for signs of the Silver Hand and Rapid’s group but the T-rex....”

“They would know.”

“Huh?”

Irina was confused by Ark’s words.

Ark turned around and headed back to the Silver Star. And he looked around until he saw three holes in the ground.

Pushu! Pushu! Pushu!

Oddly enough, it sounded like air was being breathed out of it. Ark stood in front of them and said.

“You don’t want to talk to me, huh?”

P-Pushu? Pushu! Pushu!

“You have 3 seconds. If you don’t come out then I will make you shovel another 100,000 gallstones....”

“Ugh! We’re exiting! Getting out! We’re exiting now!”

The ground shook as screams were heard. And three piles of vines emerged! While Ark was fighting the T-rex, they had covered themselves with vines, twigs and mud. The amazing thing was that Ark could identify them despite the camouflage.

Their identities were....

“Ark-nim, you came!”

“Wah! I’ve been waiting for you!”

3 people tackled Ark!

They were the 3 Monkey Brothers Ferguson, A and B.

Ferguson, A and B seemed thrilled at their reunion with Ark but he wasn’t pleased. No, he was definitely upset.

Ferguson, A and B had clearly recognized Ark when they first saw each other. But then the T-rex has shown up on their heels. They hid underneath the Silver Star and didn’t come out until the end of the battle.

Well, he was able to impress Irina thanks to them!

‘Did they learn how to use digging?’

In fact, Ark was the one who taught them the Digging skill! They were able to survive thanks to Ark.

“Now, explain the situation. I will decide your treatment after that.”

“T-that....”

Ferguson stuttered as his eyes moved around the area. The journey of the past four days flashed through Ferguson’s head like a kaleidoscope.

Four days ago.

“.....It is puzzling.”

Rapid muttered as he looked around.

Shortly after the Silver Star landed, Rapid had encountered a bunch of T-rex like Ark. At this point, Rapid still hadn’t fought the T-rex.

‘The Silver Star has crash landed so there is some damage. If we fight huge monsters in a place like this then there is no guarantee the Silver Star won’t receive damage. And even if we repair the damage....’

Ark would know. And he would snap at Rapid.

Understandably, Rapid didn’t like that idea. Thus he chose a method that Ark saw. Rapid placed the Silver Star into stealth mode and attracted the T-rex to another place to kill.

That was when the problem occurred.

Initially, Rapid planned to expand the search range with the Silver Star as base camp. But he couldn't find the path back to the Silver Star.

‘We’ve only moved 300~400 metres. No matter how much fog there is, it is ridiculous that we can’t find the Silver Star. Then.....’

Rapid was an experienced gamer. He naturally came up with an answer.

“This forest itself is a maze.”

“Maze?”

“I thought it was strange from the beginning. Fog is created due to a temperature difference between the atmosphere and the surface. But this place is underground. The temperature difference can’t be that great. Then the fog we’ve seen so far isn’t a natural phenomenon.”

“If it isn’t a natural phenomenon....?”

“It is probably artificial. That’s how we got lost despite only moving 300~400 metres. I described it as a maze but there is actually something here that makes us disorientated. So it is more

like an enchantment that makes us go in circles than a maze.”

“Don’t play around!”

Ferguson burst out at his point.

“What difference between atmospheric and surface temperature? Don’t make me laugh! You are just talking shit. Who’s fault is this? This is all because of you! So what will you do now? How are you going to help?”

“This is my mistake. I admit it.”

Rapid frowned at Ferguson’s accusation.

“Let’s skip the small talk! So I’m asking you! What are you doing to do now?”

“We can only try searching around. We will clear a way out.”

“No?”

“....Isn’t that what you wanted to hear?”

“You were unqualified to be the leader from the beginning.”

“What?”

Rapid said with an angry expression.

“Can’t you tell by my answer? You aren’t good enough to be the leader. My opinion about that hasn’t changed. From now on, I want you to step away from the leader position.”

“Hey, this is an order.”

“What?”

“Have you already forgotten? What you did to me? You placed the muzzle of your gun to my nostrils! Do you think I would’ve handed over the leader position if it wasn’t for those circumstances? Ha! Yes, okay. Then it is now my turn. But I need you to apologize for your actions first. Get on your knees and admit that you were wrong. Then I will fix all of your stupid mistakes. This body will wipe your back!”

“Yes! Get on your knees!”

“You should be grateful that he is giving you a chance to apologize!”

A and B shouted from behind Ferguson. And Rapid....cheolkeok!

“You seem to want to die.”

He loaded the pistol.

“What? What are you going to do? Okay, bring it on! I was panicked earlier but this is different. Do you think that I am easy? I was once the user ranked 18th. I will turn your brain into pudding!”

Ferguson exclaimed as he took out his launcher. And just before ammunition started flying, Hegel shouted.

“Stop it! We shouldn’t be fighting among ourselves! And like I said earlier, Ark left Rapid in charge! Even if he made a mistake....”

“It can’t be called a mistake.”

Milan jumped in and shook his head.

“It was obviously the best choice. Just like Rapid said, if we fought the T-rex in that location then the Silver Star would’ve suffered serious damage. And even if we fought in that place, we still couldn’t leave the forest. If we scattered to search then it might’ve been more dangerous.”

“That’s right.”

Asuran nodded his head.

“Changing the leader in this situation is stupid.”

Ellain summed it up. In the end, the team's public opinion still leaned towards Rapid. Thanks to that, Ferguson was once again defeated!

So Ferguson....

“Damn! Yes, they want to act like this? Okay! Good. I won’t act with you guys! You can try among yourselves!”

...He sat down firmly. In fact, Ferguson knew that Rapid wouldn't apologize even if he acted this way. Ark's henchman had degraded him by shoving a muzzle into his nostrils so he couldn't accept the situation.

“H-Hyung-nim, are those guys really leaving?”

Rapid and the team members were going.

Ferguson was upset but his stubbornness meant he wouldn't follow the team. That's how Ferguson, A and B were abandoned.

“H-Hyung-nim, what should we do now?”

“Damn, it can't be helped. Let's return to the previous location. This is 300~400 metres from the Silver Star so we might end up running into it.”

“But we don’t know the direction.”

“Huhuhu, I have a way.”

Ferguson laughed as he lifted the space food.

“Do you think I would enter a forest maze without any precautions? In fact, I dropped a little bit of space food every time we turned in this maze. So we can just follow the space food back to the original location. And it will be easy to search around for the Silver Star.”

“Ohh! As expected of Hyung-nim!”

“I couldn’t figure out the atmosphere around Hyung-nim.”

“What?”

“Ah, no! As expected of Hyung-nim!”

Ferguson, A and B started to follow the space food. However, their laughter stopped after 10 minutes.

Wookeok! Wookeok! Wookeok!

An ostrich like dinosaur was pecking at the food on the ground?

“You bastard, what are you doing? Damn, go away!”

Ferguson was upset and fired his launcher!

Once the shells started to fly, Ferguson, A and B's sufferings started. The explosion caused dozens of similar dinosaurs to emerge.

At this point, they no longer cared about the directions. If they were caught then they would be eaten! Ferguson, A and B frantically sped through the forest. However, this forest was filled with land mines.

There were for several hours in circles but couldn't see anything through the fog. And dinosaurs appeared every time through the bushes! Dinosaur! Dinosaur!

Ferguson, A and B ended up attaching tree branches all over themselves. They disguised themselves to avoid surprise attacks from dinosaurs. Fortunately there was some effect but their health was low from the encounter with the dinosaurs. They only had 10% health left when the T-rex started chasing them.

It was why they didn't pick up Ark's call in reality. They didn't have time to go to the bathroom, let along pick up the phone!

But Ferguson, A and B forgot an important fact at this time. The Silver Star was in stealth mode so only Ark and Hegel could turn it off. Therefore, Ferguson had been hovering around the Silver Star

for a while. He just couldn't see it due to the stealth mode.

Anyway!

It was the reason Ferguson, A and B were hiding in the ground. Their health was already low due to being chased by the T-rex. They realized they needed to dig in order to survive.

'Ark won't know!'

'But he will see us when he comes back!'

'No. Come to think of it, we are camouflaged right now. Maybe he didn't recognize us. Look, he was distracted by the battle. He definitely failed to recognize us. So let's just wait it out!'

"You don't want to talk to me, huh?"

Ferguson then heard Ark's voice.

"Now, explain the situation. I will decide your treatment after that."

And the scene returned once more to Ark's question. The scenes had played through Ferguson's head like a super computer.

....Anyway, they had been caught by Ark.

They had been hiding in the ground for a reason. They weren't expecting any praise. But Ferguson wasn't afraid of violence.

'I can endure that much! No matter how rampant the violent! How tough have the last few days been? But if I return to Ark then I will be taken back to that mine! Endless days of digging over and over again! Ark is that type of bastard! And I won't let him! Yes, he can't send me, A and B back to that place! I would rather....!'

Ferguson bit his lip as he stared at Ark. And he bravely shouted.

"This is all due to that bastard Rapid!"

"Rapid?"

"Yes! We first arrived in this location! A formidable place! Our strength was enough! The strong and intelligent...I mean...so you see...."

"I know what you mean. What's next?"

"Yes? Ah, yes! Anyway, I wanted to wait for Ark-nim! The reason why? Ark-nim is our only true leader! But that bastard Rapid threatened me when I didn't listen to him. I insisted on waiting for Ark-nim but it was useless!"

“Then what?”

“In the end, I did as he said!”

“And?”

“My exceptional intuition told me that this isn’t an ordinary forest! A forest that would make you disoriented when walking! Of course, Rapid insisted on wandering around! So I advised him again! I sincerely admire the Silver Star, Ark-nim’s only ship! I understand wanting to get praise for Ark-nim but it is more important to protect the Silver Star! So the first thing to do was return to the Silver Star!”

Ferguson spoke to Ark in an excited voice while not forgetting to praise him.

“And then Rapid abandoned us! But we overcome numerous challenges and managed to return to Ark-nim’s spaceship! Meanwhile, we received a serious injury which is why we were hiding. We didn’t want to die until we information Ark-nim of this fact! Yes, that’s right! Life is precious! And we are full of respect for Ark-nim! Hail Ark!”

“Hail Ark!”

Ferguson, A and B saluted Ark. It was an attempt to avoid digging again.

“Hrmm.....”

Ark's eyes narrowed as he glanced at Ferguson, A and B. After a moment, he nodded and said.

“The situation can't be helped. Yes, good work. I got some good information thanks to you.”

“T-thank you!”

Ferguson, A and B sighed with relief. Ferguson had been ready for Ark's reaction. No, his reaction was unexpected. Looking at the situation, they needed to find a way to live. Now Ark would find Rapid guilty instead of Ferguson.

‘I can live! Hopefully I don't need to go back to that place!’

Ferguson thought that but....

‘These pigs haven't changed from New World.’

Ark only believed 0.1% of Ferguson's claim. Ark didn't believe that Ferguson had any loyalty towards him like he claimed.

Even so, there were two reasons why Ark didn't snap.

The first reason was that Irina was watching and he also discovered that the forest wasn't ordinary due to Ferguson. Another reason was that he didn't want to beat someone up in front of Irina.

So he whispered in Ferguson's ears.

"Okay. I know the circumstances so let's move. But I will be watching. To see whether you three are helpful or not. And if I feel like you aren't helpful...."

Ark replied with a smile.

"I will prepare 100 new shovels for you."

Ferguson, A and B's faces darkened. But Ark ignored their reaction and continued.

"The fog means that using the spaceship has too large of a risk. However, the ship can't be left unattended. In my opinion, Irinanim and two others should be left here."

"I'm in favour of leaving people here. Hajin and Camel are suitable to stay behind. But there is no need for me to be stay here."

"That is true however...."

“Do you think I will be a burden?”

“That’s impossible!”

Ark quickly shook his head.

It was true that he didn’t think she would be a burden. It didn’t matter if this was a conventional dungeon. But Ferguson said that they couldn’t determine directions in the forest covered with thick fog due to an unidentified force.

Of course, there was an answer to any problem. They just needed to find a way. As always, he thought he could solve any problem he encountered.

However, he didn’t know what danger was lurking.

The biggest burden was time. It wasn’t simply going through the forest to find Rapid and the Silver Hand. Even if they managed to find a way through the forest, he didn’t know how much time it would take to find them in an underground world.

‘I don’t matter but I don’t want Irina to be stuck in this place. If she waits with the Silver Star then she can easily leave.’

It was one of the reasons why he wanted Irina to stay behind.

However, Irina had a resolute expression.

“I am a pioneer. I don’t want to wait here with the ship.”

“I understand.”

Ark nodded and turned to Hajin and Camel.

“We will remain. We weren’t any help to you in the previous battle and Irina-nim is unlikely to be in danger with Ark-nim.”

Thus the team was divided. And he checked an information window.

Character Information Window

Name: Ark (R-02788)

Level: 159

Species: Human

Occupation: Elim's Heir

Fame: 26,930

Adventure: 2,540

Health: 3,650 (+575)

Mental Power: 925 (+490)

Mana: 0

Force: 1,825

Strength: 395 (+80)

Agility: 435 (+128)

Stamina: 615 (+115)

Wisdom: 40 (+23)

Intelligence: 415 (+98)

Luck: 45 (+18)

Leadership: 50

Title:

Ignorant Destroyer (Wisdom -10, Strength +7, Stamina +7)

Spatial Breakthrough (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +10)

Beltana's Hero (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +3)

Athamas' Hero (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +5)

Mediator (Wisdom, Intelligence +15)

* Set Item Effect (Strength, Agility, Stamina +10. Defense +20)

* Contribution: Galactic Federation 27,520, Aschulat 500

* Affiliation: Dark Eden (CEO)

* Body Coating: Survivor

+ Environmental adaptation increases by 50% due to the

Survivor coating.

- + The Survivor coating reduces the drop rate of Satiety by 30%.
- + The Survivor coating will reduce fall damage by 50%.
- + The ‘Clairvoyance’ effect of the Survivor coating is applied.

“Now, let’s go!”

Ark exclaimed after his check was completed.

Irina, Ferguson, A and B followed him into the forest.

Space 3: Forest Of Chaos

Kwaaaaah!

The roar shook the forest.

At the same time, a terrible head could be seen through the fog. The head that had thick canines was the strongest carnivorous dinosaur, the T-rex.

“Rapid Sword!”

Light gushed out from Irina’s pair of swords.

The mouth of the T-rex tackling her instant became like tattered rags. However, there were both benefits and disadvantages to Irina’s speedy swords. The strength was insufficient to stop the heavy weight heading towards her. And the moment the T-rex was about to swallow her!

“Piercing!”

A ray of light flew out of the bushes towards the T-rex’s jaw. It rammed into the T-rex like a bulldozer and caused it to stumble around.

“Basak, attack the legs with Blast! Sonic Sword!”

The warrior and crystal golem that rushed towards the T-rex was Ark and Basak!

Ark's sword and Basak's Blast focused on one of the T-rex's leg, causing it to wobble. Then Ark jumped up using its knees and poured a shower of attacks on the T-rex's jaw and neck.

The different physiques didn't matter. No, Ark actually used the differences in physiques. He agilely moved between the legs of the T-rex, attacking then joints and then jumped up to attack the weak points.

His movements were acquired from numerous battlefields! He didn't feel a difference in power.

Kwang! Kwang! Kwang!

White flashes of light burst with every movement. The 10 metres T-rex was pushed back every time. The T-rex took such a beating that it literally bit his tongue and died.

“Phew, now it is cleaned up?”

Ark breathed out and shook his head.

They had just been attacked by a group of 4 T-rex. Ark had dealt with 2, Ferguson's group handled 1 and Irina handled the remaining T-rex.

“Irina-nim, you aren’t hurt?”

“Yes, thanks to....”

“Don’t work too hard. Leave it to me if it is dangerous.”

“I know....”

Irina sighed.

“Then why is this expression....what are you worried about? If it is the time....”

“It’s nothing. Just a little tired.”

“It has been 5 hours....”

Ark scratched his head with an awkward expression.

He knew this forest wouldn’t be easy before he started. Apart from the T-rex attacking, the biggest problem was the disorientation.

He heard from Ferguson that there was definitely something strange with the forest. Even if they walked straight in one direction, they would end up returning to the same spot.

‘Well, I’m not surprised.’

A large number of high trees had grown. They could only see a few metres due to the thick fog. Normally a user would rely on the Nymphe in this situation but the GPS wasn’t working either. There were also the T-rex that came storming.

It was difficult to maintain a sense of direction in these conditions.

‘But that isn’t the problem. We can’t just simply wander like this. In addition, there is something in this forest. Yet I haven’t found it yet.’

He just couldn’t fathom what it was. However, he was Ark. He might have experience fighting in space but he was originally an earth user!

‘I entered this place because I can come up with a method.’

Ark was confident for this reason. And not long ago, he was able to get some useful information to help with the navigation. It was when he had crash landed on Ikyullos.

Ark had once again realized the importance of Steel Stomach.

‘Steel Stomach can make me full and give stat bonuses depending

on the type of ingredient. Even 1 extra Strength or Agility can be a great help in a life or death situation.'

S-20 and Ikyullos....

In his pursuit of sizeable things, he had ignored his minor skills. Ark had climbed up from the bottom in New World.

'I was never stronger than others!'

Ark grew stronger using different methods from the other users. He hadn't hesitated to even raise his Stamina or Resilience by even 1 more. These small difference had accumulated and placed Ark in the position of a hero.

'Now I need to return to the basics. Don't take a break because there is always something to do. That's what I need to do from now on.'

Ark was determined.

First he would focus on raising the skill level of Steel Stomach.

In fact, the universe was filled with a variety of plants, insects, animals and creepy crawlies that could be eaten to raise his skill proficiency. So he collected plants from the forest on a semi-regular basis.

Baum Mushrooms could be found in various parts of Istana. They were fresh mushrooms with a sharp point that always pointed towards the north. The indigenous people of Istana figured it out but the Baum Mushrooms had a defense. It could also be used as food but the deadly toxins made it risky for humans.

He found these mushrooms.

‘This will work well.’

The freshly grown mushrooms always pointed to the north. He even figured out a way around its defense. But this wasn’t a fundamental solution.

Ark’s purpose wasn’t to navigate through the forest but to find Rapid and the Silver Hand. He couldn’t meet Rapid and the Silver Hand if he couldn’t understand the structure of the forest.

‘Rapid doesn’t know the location of the Silver Star so I need to find a clue in this forest. That person should leave a sign somewhere in the forest. I have to find the secret of the forest first in order to find their traces.’

This was the reason why Ark had wandered the forest for 5 hours. Ark couldn’t help but look at Irina.

Irina belonged to the Galactic Federation so he couldn’t keep her here indefinitely. But aside from that problem, the exploration had been quite comfortable. It was thanks to Ferguson, A and B.

“Wah! Thanks for the good work!”

While Ark was having a conversation with Irina. Ferguson, A and B were busy attended to the T-rex’s bodies.

“Ark-nim is completely different from us. Smoothly taking care of the T-rex! This Ferguson really admires Ark-nim’s skills.”

“The loot?”

“Give it to me. Distribution will occur after everything is over.”

Ferguson was rubbing his hands with a black substance from the T-rex. Ark had also found out another piece of information in the forest.

Normally 3~4 T-rex emerged from the forest. That number wasn’t a threat to Ark. There was just one problem. Once they processed a group of T-rex, another crowd of T-rex would come storming out.

But even Ark could fight so many T-rex without a break. There were quite a few incidents when he first walked into the forest. However, Ark soon figured out a way to stop the T-rex’s series of raids.

‘I thought the T-rex just kept on attacking in the forest but that

isn't the case. If he got away without a fight then he never encountered another group of T-rex. There weren't a lot of the monsters. Therefore, there must be a reason why other T-rex started coming not long after a battle ended. That reason is probably the smell of blood....'

The T-rex was huge so it contained an enormous amount of blood. The forest would be covered in blood after a battle. Of course, the monster's blood and body would disappear over time but the other T-rex would smell blood and charge over.

'Then the solution is simple.'

After thinking about it, something flashed through Ark's head. A bad stench covered the forest. Right now, the T-rex's body was being covered with a black substance. The black substance's identity was the T-rex's poo!

'This will hide the smell!'

Anyway, the result was very nice!

The dead bodies were covered with poo after the battle. Of course, Ark wasn't going to touch poo in front of Irina. So the ones spreading poo on the bodies of the T-rex were Ferguson, A and B.

However, there was no opposition.

"Good work."

“No! As you know, we are people who volunteered to be Ark-nim’s subordinates because we admire him. And if we hadn’t met Ark-nim then the T-rex would’ve already turned us into poo. So it is natural to leave such chores to us. No, we are simple grateful to be able to follow Ark-nim. Please treat us as your servants.”

Ferguson was desperate. They didn’t want to be useless humans that would be sent to dig after returning to S-20!

“Hey, what are you doing? Don’t you see how tired Ark-nim and Irina-nim are after the fight? Go and give them a shoulder massage!”

“Ah! Yes!”

However, it was a law that greed would cause disaster. Ark kicked A and B who were approaching Irina and shouted.

“Who are you trying to touch with your shit-stained hands? Ugh, the smell! Aren’t you going to go away?”

“Ah! I-I’m sorry!”

“If you don’t want to be useless then go scout. Shouldn’t you go find traces of Rapid and the Silver Star in the forest? Are you going to stay here?”

“No! We’re leaving! We’re going now!”

It wasn’t surprising that Ferguson, A and B also got the scouting position!

“And do you know? Search for any plants as well. Later I will examine the plants....”

“Don’t worry! We will search!”

“Yes, and your hands still have the remains of the T-rex’s poo. And watch your hands before harvesting the plants Don’t you know that I eat those plants? If there is even a little smell of poo....”

“We will scrub our hands with alcohol!”

Ferguson, A and B collected ingredients as well as poo! Aside from battling the T-rex, Ark and Irina had a pleasant time in the forest. Then Irina muttered as she looked at the running Ferguson, A and B.

“Is this too severe?”

“Not at all. When thinking about what they did to me....”

“Those people did something to Ark-nim?”

“No, it’s nothing. Irina-nim doesn’t need to worry about it. It is like they said. They find it rewarding working for me. We have to fight the T-rex so they should at least help out like this.”

“Yes.....”

Irina sighed and nodded. Ark was upset at Irina’s sigh.

‘Another sigh. She must be concerned about the time.’

Ever since coming into the forest. No, Irina had that expression since he first fought the T-rex. And she would occasionally sigh.

Ark thought the reason was due to the time. Irina belonged to the Galactic Federation so time was a burden.

‘But now it is too late to go back. I need to find the clue faster for Irina-nim....’

But Ark made a mistake. In fact, the reason for Irina’s sighs was different from Ark’s imagination.

Irina had been looking forward to accompanying Ark on this adventure. Irina was also a user. Although she was a civil servant of the Galactic Federation, she also felt enjoyment during battle and when achieving her goal in the adventure.

Irina followed Ark on this adventure to share the joy with him.

But it turned out different from what she imagined. The battle was harder than he though and she couldn't wander off in the forest. During the battle with the T-rex, Irina realized the difference between her skills and Ark's.

'I was confident in my skills....'

Once again, a job with the Galactic Federation had a high competitive rate and Irina was a captain. Her class didn't have high attack power but she was confident that her skills were better than average.

But Ark jumped a few steps beyond her imagination. Irina felt despair but it wasn't just the level difference. Before entering the forest, she heard that Ark was level 150. She is currently 130. 20 levels wasn't a small difference but she felt like Ark's combat capabilities were 2~3 times more!

'I didn't know Ark-nim was this strong.'

Of course, it was good to have a strong boyfriend like Ark. However, the difference between their skills was also a burden.

'Ferguson is also a user with considerable influence. Ferguson, A and B can probably fight. But they didn't help Ark in battle. In the end, I also wasn't helpful. And I actually needed to receive Ark-nim's help.'

Being protected by her boyfriend wasn't bad. Still, Irina wanted

to help rather than be protected. But in reality, she was just a burden. So a sigh was forced to emerge. And a sigh also emerged from Ark every time she did that.

‘I want to help Ark-nim more....’

“Hah~.”

‘I need to find the clues quickly for Irina-nim....’

“Hah~.”

While that was happening....

“Damn! He is really hateful!”

Ferguson kicked a stone with a furious expression.

“We’re we playing around? Huh? Playing? We fought with the T-rex! Why do we have to look for mushrooms and poo? Furthermore, what is that? Is he a horny dog? Wasn’t he stuck to a girl called Roco in New World and now he has a new girl? Geez, meanwhile a guy like me hasn’t had a lifelong love during my 20 years of living! In addition, touching him with my shit-stained hands? He is the reason why my hands are like this!”

Ferguson exploded with rage.

“I’ve been listening to Hyung-nim.”

A finally opened up with a gloomy expression.

“When we were in New World, we just to be dragged around by Ark to forage ingredients.”

“So what? Are you saying there is no need to get bad because we did it before?”

“No, it’s just.....”

A looked down at his hands stained with poo. And he looked at Ferguson with tearful eyes.

“Hyung-nim, why did we enter Galaxian?”

“What?”

“It was for the sake of a better life. In order to escape from the grip of Ark’s hands. But what is this? We obtained food ingredients back in New World. And now poo.... It is worse than our day in New World.”

“T-that....”

“Now I know. This is our destiny.”

Ferguson flinched at A’s words.

“Our fate became twisted the moment we encountered Ark in New World. And we can’t escape until his death. Huhuhu, this is our destiny.”

“Idiot!”

Ferguson shouted and slapped A on the cheek. A stumbled back and asked as he grabbed his cheek.

“Why did you hit me? Did I do something wrong? No!”

“Shut up! This is our destiny? Don’t make me laugh! I will carve out my own destiny! Have you forgotten? The reason we were brought to tears and abandoned our characters in New World? Does it make sense for that to be our fate?”

“But the result....”

A lifted his poo covered hands.

“....This!”

“Yes, for now. At the moment, we might be more miserable than our days in New World. But we should never give up. No matter how miserable we are, if we don’t give up then there is a bright future where we can escape from Ark!”

“W-will there really be such a day?”

“Trust me!”

Ferguson nodded and placed his hands on A’s shoulder.

Thanks to that, A’s shoulder was covered in poo but A didn’t mind because everywhere else was covered in poo as well. Anyway, A seemed to calm down as he nodded towards Ferguson.

“I’m sorry. I was insane for a while.”

“It is okay. Who wouldn’t understand you? However, just have a little more patience. And don’t think about it too much. Right now we have escaped from the hell of digging in that place. We will get an opportunity.”

“Can we really escape from that mine?”

“We will!”

Ferguson nodded with a resolute expression.

“What about gathering the poo?”

“But has that Ark bastard ever noticed or appreciated it?”

“Well, we need to gather the food ingredients and poo. But there is still plenty of time. It is an opportunity for Ark to recognize us. This is a chance to build up some favour with Ark.”

“We will dedicate our lives to helping Hyung-nim!”

“Yes!”

Ferguson, A and B firmly grabbed each other's shit-stained hands. And they moved around to find food ingredients and the T-rex's poo. B suddenly sniffed and said in a low voice.

“H-Hyung-nim, over there. There is someone.”

“What? Who? Perhaps it is Rapid?”

“No, it is a woman.”

“Woman?”

Ferguson turned and looked in the direction that B pointed. And just like B's words, a woman could be seen a few dozen metres away sitting in front of a rock.

Ferguson knew that Rapid's group didn't have a woman. And he never heard of any females in the Silver Hand. The only woman that Ferguson knew about was Irina so why was one suddenly here?

"That woman...."

Ferguson focused his eyes. Ferguson surprisingly recognized the face of the woman that B discovered.

"Isn't that Kaya who participated in Ark's investigation team? Why is she in a place like this?"

"Did she come to this dungeon alone?"

This dungeon wasn't known to many users yet. What were the chances of accidentally meeting another user that they knew? However, Ferguson wasn't interested in the probabilities.

"I don't know but this situation is good. I don't know why she is in this place but she might know something about the forest."

"Hyung-nim, wait a minute."

Then A caught Ferguson's sleeve.

"Next to Kaya. The body of a T-rex."

“The body of a T-rex? So?”

“Have you forgotten? If we neglect the T-rex’s body....”

Kung! Kung! Kwajijik!

While A was talking with an uncertain expression. Suddenly the fog started swirling and there was a sudden roar. Ferguson, A and B knew what that meant. Not surprisingly, the huge figures of the T-rex started showing up in the swirling fog!

“Kyaak!”

Kaya screamed and ran in Ferguson, A and B’s direction as the T-rex showed up. And 4 T-rex were chasing behind her.

“I hate this! Hate it! I want to get out of this forest!”

Kung! Kwajik! Kung! Kwajik! Kung! Kwajik!

Kaya’s screams and the deafening roars of the T-rex swept over Ferguson, A and B. But they couldn’t be seen at all. At this moment Ferguson, A and B.....

Pushu! Pushu! Pushu!

Air was rising from 3 bamboo tubes sticking out of the ground. After a while, the ground shook and three people emerged. Ferguson, A and B had automatically dug holes in the ground using shovels the moment there was a crisis.

“Heok! H-how surprising!”

“Damn! Twe! Twe! That dumb woman! Why did she enter the forest if she doesn’t know how to handle the corpse of the T-rex? We could’ve died for nothing!”

Ferguson spat on the ground while complaining. Ferguson, A and B forgot that they had wandered the forest for 4 days without knowing how to use the T-rex’s poo!

“But now what? That girl, she will die if this continues.”

“How would I know?”

“But that girl, she knows Ark. If she dies while we pretended not to see her then wouldn’t Ark get mad later?”

“Are you a fool? Kaya didn’t see us. How will Ark know if we shut our mouths and don’t tell him? Just forget it. We didn’t see anything. Got it?”

“Ah! That’s right!”

“The T-rex’s body is intact so more of them might come. We should go back to where Ark is.”

At that moment, B tilted his head and asked.

“But what was she looking at?”

“Huh? What does that mean?”

“When we found her. Kaya was sitting in front of the rock. She was resting while facing the rock so doesn’t it seem like she was looking at something?”

“That’s right There might be something there.”

Ferguson exited the bushes and headed to where Kaya had been sitting. And the moment he looked at the rocks!

“T-this!”

Three days ago.

“....Now it makes sense.”

Rapid paused while turning around.

The corpses of 10 T-rex could be seen through the dense fog. Two days had passed since Rapid entered the forest while fighting the T-rex.

However, that time wasn't pointless.

"It seems like the forest area is a distorted space itself."

"A distorted space?"

Hegel, Milan, Asuran etc. all had '?' over their heads.

"Yes, in other words it is a space enchantment. I don't know if it works but the power acts to distort the space so that we can't escape the forest. It seems to be a ward that someone deliberately placed in order to prevent invaders."

"So we can't escape from this forest?"

Ellain asked the question.

"Only if we jump in blindly."

"You mean....?"

"Even though the space distorts, it isn't random. And the entire

forest isn't distorted. There are certain 'intervals.' I checked and each interval is 200~300 metres. Even if we had in a straight line, the direction will change once we pass through those places. That is the rule. The evidence is that we've returned to this place three times."

"Evidence that we've returned?"

"Don't you know? At first I thought it was a coincidence but then I deliberately went through it twice. As a result, we arrived at the same place. That direction that we head to after passing through an interval is always constant. If we enter from the south east then we will exit through the south east."

"Will that help us now?"

"Of course. If we know the rules then we can head to the place that we want. We can even leave the forest."

"We can finally escape from this infernal forest?"

The group's expressions brightened at Rapid's words.

"Wait a minute!"

Ellain moved forward and said.

"We came here to rescue the Silver Hand. Even if we can escape

the forest, how will that help if we can't find their whereabouts?"

"You don't understand."

Rapid laughed and shook his head.

"Why do you think there is a space enchantment here?"

"Huh? That...."

"Someone wants to stop intruders. The Silver Hand should've figured out that much. And if they came to the same conclusion? If they understand the structure of this space? They would be able to escape the forest. But the Silver Hand is still missing. We couldn't find them in the forest. Then where is the Silver Hand? The answer is simple. Didn't I tell you? Someone spread wards here to deter invaders. In other words, there is a place that someone didn't want to be accessible to invaders. There is a final destination to this dungeon. It is likely that the Silver Hand used the enchantment of the forest to find that route."

"Then....."

"Of course we have to find the Silver Hand."

'I don't want to see a teasing expression on Ark's face!'

Rapid swallowed his saliva. Once again, Rapid only cared about

this mission because his pride wouldn't allow him to be lose to Ark. Then Rapid looked at the group and said.

"It will take some time to figure out the overall configuration of the enchantment. We need to hurry to determine the Silver Hand's fate. From now on, we will be moving without a break. Hegel, calculate the angle of the direction change when going through a space enchantment."

"I understand. Then....."

Hegel studied Rapid's face.

"How do we know Ark hyung-nim hasn't come here in the meantime? Shouldn't we leave some signs for Ark hyung-nim?"

"Ah! Yes. I hadn't thought about that."

Rapid stopped and replied. He thought for a moment before smiling and nodding.

"I'll take care of it."

"Those bastards...."

Ark muttered with an angry expression.

There were a small distance away from the place where Ark and Irina went ‘Hah~. Hah~.’ At that moment, they heard the T-rex’s roar coming from the direction Ferguson, A and B headed in.

Of course, Ark naturally ran in that direction. Ark had to kill a T-rex every time Ferguson, A and B got in trouble. He was just thinking that when he heard Ferguson, A and B’s voices.

“Ark-nim, over here!”

“Ferguson, the T-rex?”

“They stopped chasing us!”

“What? Really? How?”

“That...no, look at this!”

Ferguson flinched before quickly pointing at a rock. Ark narrowed his eyes as he noticed something. There were small scratches on the thick rock at regular intervals. Someone had carved letters with a knife.

Is it you? It’s me.

I wrote this note in case you came here.

Unlike your expectations, I am still alive.

Well, it is true that I got lost. So I figured that I should put this information together for you since you were dragging your feet. Make sure to thank me when you see me. If you don't want to then leave You will probably end up wandering around here until you die.

It wasn't stated who wrote the note. But Ark immediately figured out who wrote it. This note was probably from when the team first arrived. And among those team members, the only one who would write like this was Rapid.

So Ark thought about it.

Once again, Ark was a reasonable person. He was ready to humble himself if there were benefits. However, it also depended on the person.

It didn't matter if they were NPCs or other users but this was Rapid. The writing style definitely matched Rapid. He had the feeling that Rapid had left information behind.

'But.....'

Ark sighed as he glanced at Irina. Ark was still worried about taking too long. If he looked at Rapid's information then he could

save some time. What reason did he have to ignore Rapid's information?

‘It can't be helped. Everything is for Irina!’

In the end, Ark discarded his pride and read the rock.

Right, look on the right side of the rock you fool!

The words written on the right side. Rapid! Now he was really annoyed. But Ark had already thrown away his pride.

Stupid Ark.

I wanted say this once.

The real information is written on the bottom of the rock.

‘.....#\$\$!#\$!##\$!#\$!’

Curses almost emerged from his mouth.

“How funny. Don't you two seem close? This joke....”

“Ah, yes.”

Ark gave an awkward smile and nodded. A joke? Absolutely not. He wasn't planning Rapid's assassination. Ark would openly kill Rapid.

'That bastard, I won't leave him alone the next time we meet!'

It was the first thing he would do when he found Rapid. Fortunately, the information written on the bottom of the rock was correct.

According to what I found in this forest, the space distorts at intervals of 200 metres.

We walked forward without thinking. I checked while wandering the forest several times and discovered a turning point near the right rocks. After wandering for several hours, we ended up back here. So if you wander through the forest, you will eventually discover this rock.

I haven't investigated everywhere but the 'stupid Ark' should move in the direction indicated on the right side of this rock. If you don't move in another direction then you will escape the forest. Please note.

Then I'll be going now.

"I'm glad. Now we don't need to just wander around."

"I'm glad. Now we don't need to just wander around."

“That’s right.”

Ark replied with an odd smile. Then Ferguson, A and B quickly came over and said.

“How about it? Didn’t I tell you? I just want to be helpful to Ark-nim! I am such a person! No, please keep in mind that I’m not hoping for any praise!”

Ferguson didn’t miss the chance to appeal to Ark.

But the atmosphere around Ark was different from his expectations.

“Did you read this before?”

Ark turned and asked.

“Huh? Ah, yes. That.....”

“Nevertheless, you made me read the writing in order to look like a fool in front of Irina?”

“Huh? “No.....that.....you see.....”

“I w.i.l.l r.e.m.e.m.b.e.r t.h.i.s!”

Ark said in a murderous voice.

Ferguson, A and B's faces darkened.

Space 4: Bio-Plant (Part 1)

‘There’s something weird.’

Ark frowned.

He had obtained information thanks to the reference points that Rapid had written down on the rocks. At least they were moving in the direction of Rapid’s group.

Thanks to that, he had help determining the direction to advance!

Kwaaaaah!

“Ark-nim, T-rex!”

“Okay! Leave it to me! Now! Now!”

Sometimes they would fight off the T-rex!

“Phew, Ferguson! A! B!”

“Yes! Please leave the clean up to us! Ohhhhhh!”

Chomuk chomuk! Chideok chideok! Chideok chideok!

Ferguson, A and B picked up the loot and covered the bodies with poo! Ferguson, A and B tirelessly refilled the poo around the clock! Ferguson, A and B had to painfully march through the fog covered forest for 6 hours!

.....Ark was still wandering around the fog covered forest.

“Are we going in the proper direction?”

“Yes, it is certain.”

Ark nodded and touched his Nymphe.

The Nymphe’s memo function was activated and a grid ‘■’ was floating. This was the image of the forest that surfaced in Ark’s head after reading Rapid’s message. The place where the space twisted were arranged at intervals of 200 metres so it was easy to make a visible form.

In other words, the places where the lines crossed ‘+’ were the distorted places. And with the rule that the direction would change every time they passed through a ‘+’, he could seem identify the path in this complex forest.

He noted that the forest was divided into compartments. What he meant....

“The forest is largely divided into several areas. There is an invisible fence around the east so no matter how much we wander

from the west, south or north, we won't be able to enter that part of the forest. This is the information that Rapid wrote down on the rock. In other words, we can proceed in the east, south, north or west from the rock and if we maintain that direction then we will end up back at the rock. So the rock is called a junction."

"Then the information on how to exit...."

Irina murmured with an astonished expression.

"Aren't you a pretty smart person?"

"No, well if I had a little more time...."

Irina pouted at Ark's words as she blushed. It was natural to blush when thinking of themselves in that way.

"I'm aware of that."

But then Irina smiled faintly. What the, she was indeed Irina! He was glad she was his girlfriend. She would always be on his side! Well, all women like Irina was caring!

'My greed means I want to be with you in the future.'

But now wasn't the time to think about that.

“Try this.”

Ark caused the ‘■’ to rise from the Nymph.

The left portion of the grid was covered with thick lines. Ark had marked the directions they travelled in the past hour. After passing through a ‘+’, the direction might change but there was no need to go back. And such a task was more advantageous for Ark than for Rapid.

-The <Baum Mushroom> has been discovered!

He checked the orientation whenever he found a Baum Mushroom!

Once he knew the secret of the forest, he could wander around much more comfortably than Rapid. That's how Ark was able to explore most of the western forest in 5 hours.

So it was strange.

“Like I explained, this forest is divided into blocks. And thanks to Rapid, we've already verified most of the area in the western forest.”

If so, they should've passed traces left behind by Rapid. The western forest should contain things like phrases written on rocks

or simple markers. Rather than escaping from the forest, Ark's purpose was to find the Silver Hand and Rapid's group. However, he had found most of the markers in the western forest.

"Won't it depend on their situation? They might've been attacked by many T-rex."

That was the general idea. But Ark had a disturbing feeling. He had some loose ends to tie up with Rapid due to the words he wrote on the rock.

'Now, let's consider changing the position. I left the team with Rapid due to a mission. But this forest is scary. And I still haven't resolved what is beyond the forest. Then what if Rapid comes here soon? Then should I think Rapid the direction I changed to?'

The answer was NO! The reason why? His anger!

Rapid needed to be alive to continue the mission. This mission had taken four days so it was harder than expected. But he had arrived late so he didn't need to suffer.

Of course, it was impossible for him to feel good.

But how did Rapid behave?

-I have struggled thanks to you. By the time you wander through the forest and catch up, I would've already cleaned up everything. It would be better if you died before that.

Naturally Rapid would have ulterior motives!

‘It’s possible! It is certainly possible if it is that bastard! Dammit, I was too short-sighted. I should’ve thought more deeply after finding Rapid’s words!’

His suspicion soon turned into certainty. And anger rose in the depths of his heart!

The person who put a stop to Ark’s thoughts was Irina.

“I think it is too early to jump to conclusions yet. Something might’ve happened. Speaking of which, haven’t we searched this bit of the forest?”

“Well, I guess so.”

It was inevitable that they searched the entire western region. So it would be better to go back through and search the area. Ark displayed the map and chose a route.

And after 3 hours!

“That bastard!”

A curse ended up exploded from Ark’s mouth. After finding Rapid’s writing, Ark’s group had searched the western forest for 8

hours until they arrived at a cliff!

An invisible cliff signified the edge of the western forest. And if he looked down then there was the breath-taking view of lava bubbling.

“Now it is certain! That bastard Rapid! I won’t let this go!”

“But to do this on purpose....”

“No! Rapid is this type of person!”

“Ark-nim, look over there!”

While Ark was shouting angrily. Ferguson who was looking around restlessly pointed to one side.

“A building! There seems to be a building on the edge of that cliff!”

“A building?”

Ark narrowed his eyes and turned his head.

The fog covering the forest couldn’t reach the border of the cliff like it was striking against an invisible glass wall. There seemed to be a black shadow on the edge of the cliff several hundred metres

away. It was blurry because of the fog but it was evidently a building.

“Why is a building in a place like this?”

“Well, we will know if we look at it.”

Ark smiled while replying to Irina’s question.

“But look. There is something here. Maybe your friend wasn’t tricking you.”

Ark had been rampaging because he thought he had been deceived by Rapid. At that moment, Ferguson came up to Ark.

“Huhuhu, Ark-nim. Wasn’t I the one who found that building? No, well I’m not asking you to praise me. I’m just happy being helpful to Ark-nim. I just want to ask that you remember this.”

“Shut up, hrm?”

And Ark glared at him with cold eyes. He seemed to penalize Ferguson more whenever he couldn’t find a message from Rapid.

Anyway, Ark’s group moved along the edge of the cliff. Ark guessed the identity of the shadow was a building. The building seemed to be the size of a small shopping centre with pillars 10 metres high surrounding it and thick pipes crossing between the

pillars. The structure looked like....

“Ferguson, grab that one over there.”

“Huh? Yes!”

Pajijik!

“Wah! Kyakyakyakyak!”

Ferguson jumped and grabbed a pipe. Sparks flew and smoke rose above Ferguson's head. However, Ark just nodded like he guessed it would happen and said.

“It was an electric fence.”

“Eh? Eh? Eh?”

“Ah, there is a hole that someone can enter. Irina-nim, it is dangerous.”

And like nothing had happened, he walked towards a place where a pipe was broken.

‘That bastard! Someday I will kill you! I definitely have to kill you!’

Ferguson vowed while looking at the back of Ark's head.
However.....

"Hey, what are you doing? Quickly!"

"Huh? Ah, yes! We're going now!" Hey, let's go!"

Ferguson stood up and followed at Ark's voice.

....Ferguson had already become a slave in body and mind. Thanks to Ferguson confirming it with his body, Irina, Ark and the 3 slaves found a way through the broken pipe towards a fence.

"We can't just go over there."

Ark muttered as he looked at a building that seemed abandoned. No, to be precise he was looking at the dinosaurs wandering around the building.

They were small 1 metre dinosaurs that resembled ostriches. It was a Dilophosaurus that he had encountered a few times in the forest.

Their level was 70~80. They weren't dangerous opponents but the number of them was the problem. He had only met 10 Dilopho in the forest. But now there were dozens of Dilopho wandering around the building! There was a significant number of Dilopho inside the building as well.

“If they are gathering like that then it will be difficult to lure the monsters. Then we should use the fence. If we pierce through a hole in the fence then we should be able to avoid most attacks.”

Ark determined the tactic before looking at Irina.

“Irina-nim, will you be okay?”

“Yes, please leave it to me.”

Irina nodded as she pulled out her pair of swords.

‘I am confident that I can pull off my share!’

Once again, Irina joined Ark on this adventure to show off her skills. However, she realized something when watching Ark fight the T-rex.

Ark was strong and the difference was much larger than she thought. She hadn’t thought he would be that strong.

But there was a reason for it.

The power of a character’s stats would influence close combat.

That wasn’t all. In fact, various actions such as lifting weight

would be influenced by strength. Among them, it was particularly important for users to figure out the recoil effect that would make the enemy flinch back.

If they managed to make a monster stumble than a user could attack with stronger power. That's why users who invested strength in both hands would have insufficient agility or defense. They would rather focus on attack than defense.

This was most effective when dealing with large monsters like a T-rex. The bonus would have a significant impact against large monsters. The recoil would also stop the monster's actions. A large monster would have slow attacks. It would be pushed on the defensive and couldn't fight back properly.

However, Irina had invested in agility.

She didn't like the feel of heavier, two-handed swords and her work with the Galactic Federation meant it was rare to fight large monsters. Irina usually faced humanoid opponents like the Rama. And agility worked against humanoid warriors who relied on strength.

'I couldn't show my skills when facing the T-rex but there is also a 20 level difference between us. But this isn't a large distance. Ark is just a character that specialized in dealing with large monsters. But the Dilopho were small monsters! Mini monsters is my area of expertise!'

She also encountered the Dilopho in the forest. However, Irina

was only able to display a small amount of her skills. Ark's power was enough to easily take care of 10 Dilopho. But there were at least 100 around the building!

‘....Let me show you!’

Irina was burning with motivation.

The battle began with Ferguson firing his launcher.

Pepeng!

An ‘!’ popped above the heads of all the Dilopho at once. And they started headed towards Ark's group at the fence.

Their number was enough to instantly cover the yard between the fence and the building! The Dilopho flocked towards the fence.

“Irina-nim, step back until there is less danger!”

‘He is concerned about me.’

A challenging smile appeared on Irina's face. She was thankful for Ark's consideration but she didn't listen to him.

‘I didn't steal my position as Galactic Federation Captain!’

“Rapid Sword!”

Irina shouted as she threw her body towards the crowd of Dilopho.

At the same time, dozens of swords made of light enveloped Irina’s body. A huge sword! When one sword disappeared another one would appear....dozens of these swords seemed to form a sphere around Irina.

Jajajajak!

There was a fountain of blood as leather was torn. They were low level monsters but the dinosaurs weren’t easy. Their agility resembled an ostrich and the fluids they sprayed from their mouths had a poison effect.

However, Irina didn’t fall behind in speed. Irina swung her swords while racing like the wind, causing the Dilopho to collapse where ever she passed.

A trance like state! She had been immersed in battle since starting Galaxian. As a result, there were more than 10 bodies around her in only a few minutes.

She paused to take a breath and turned.

‘Yes, this is it! Ark-nim, look! These are my real skills...!’

Irina's faces stiffened.

"Bring it on, you chickens! All the resentment that had accumulated until now! All the pent up grief! I need to release it onto you so you should just die!"

Ferguson was continuously firing his launcher while shouting. In fact, so far Ferguson had been in a similar situation to Irina. Ferguson used a launcher so he wasn't a professional user in 1 vs 1 fights.

He dealt much greater damage to a wide area. Therefore he couldn't exert his strength against the T-rex. However, it was different if the monsters were small and only level 70~80.

Ferguson, A and B were a set. A and B stayed by Ferguson's side while holding shields! Ferguson would push back the Dilophosaurus while they counterattacked with swords. And in the centre was Ferguson with his launcher!

The 3 people formed a chariot. A T-rex would step on them but it was different when the opponent were these small dinosaurs. Ferguson, A and B were weak to strong people and strong against the weak!

"Wuhahaha! Boring bastards! I will kill you all!"

Pepeng! Pepeng! Pepeng!

The Dilopho went flying every time the flames soared. And there were 20 bodies that had been turned to ashes! He had handled the Dilopho twice as fast as Irina.

‘T-that is ridiculous! What is this?’

Irina was upset that Ferguson performed better than her in front of Ark. It was natural. He was Ferguson! Ferguson was the person who always bragged about reaching the 18th ranking among users. And Ark who enslaved that Ferguson, A and B....

“Piercing! Chain Attack!”

Ark pierced through the Dilopho like a drill! Following that, Ark clenched his fists and the group of Dilopho exploded. The combo attack of Piercing and Chain Attack! That alone caused the Dilopho’s health to drop by half.

Ark had leapt in the middle so he received 10 attacks at once.

“Mind Shield!”

Mind Shield surrounded his entire body! The attacks coming from every direction bounced off the shield. Then there was a swirl of swords around Ark.

“Khafra Fencing 3rd style! Galaxy Sword! Time!”

The Dilopho had their bodies brutally torn. An unfathomable number of bodies were piled up around Ark. It was like a wolf jumping into a flock of sheep!

Ark wouldn't even call this a battle. In fact, this wasn't Ark's style of fighting.

Ark's personality was better safe than sorry. No matter how weak the monster was, he would always allocate a certain amount of strength when fighting them. Therefore he sometimes seemed timid but this situation was different.

Irina was looking at him! The long awaited opportunity to look cool in front of Irina! Thanks to that, Ark's girlfriend....

'Ark-nim, once again!'

.....She felt the bitter taste of frustration again.

Two days ago.

"Huh? Why aren't you laughing?"

"No, it isn't anything big...."

Rapid shook his head and laughed at Hegel's question.

"I was just wishing that Ark won't arrive here late."

"Eh? Why? It is better if we solve it before Ark hyung-nim arrives."

"That is true however...."

Rapid stopped and turned his head.

"I want Ark to see my message."

Rapid said while staring at the forest covered in a dense fog. But there seemed to be a boundary as a completely different environment from the forest occurred. The blades of grass seemed to be pressing against an invisible barrier.

'This really.....'

They processed all the Dilopho immediately after that.

Ark blushed and scratched his head. Once Ark discovered the building, he thought there would be some signs of Rapid or the

Silver Hand.

However, the interior of the building was empty. It was disappointing but he was more worried about Irina's attitude.

"Are you hurt anywhere?"

"I'm okay. Don't worry about me."

He had felt something vague since fighting the Dilopho.

But Ark didn't dare ask why. He could only approximately guess.

'Irina must've thought this was a simple dungeon that would only take one day. Furthermore, there hasn't been any traces found of Rapid or the Silver Hand in this building. No wonder why the light-hearted Irina is annoyed.'

....He completely headed in the wrong direction.

However, Ark was too dense to guess the source of Irina's irritation.

Rapid had given them directions to this building. He thought there would be some evidence of Rapid remaining here.

-Rapid has come. (^_ ^)

There was nothing like that! The man had deliberately left a message in the forest so it didn't make sense that he wouldn't leave one at this point.

There were no marks that indicated Rapid had come to such a place. In other words, it was a fish bait.

And Ark imagined that Rapid was wandering around somewhere. This was probably the reason why Rapid didn't pick up his phone. He didn't want to answer the phone. And thanks to Irina, Ark was feeling impatient.

He ground his teeth together.

“That bastard Rapid....!”

“But why would Rapid do such a thing?”

“Rapid was originally like that!”

The person who interjected was Ferguson.

“He is a sneaky bastard. In addition, he is selfish and despicable. He was so blinded by self-interest that he didn't wait for Ark-nim to arrive like I advised! That bastard Rapid is that type of person!”

Ferguson still hadn't forgotten the grudge where Rapid had

shoved its muzzle under his nostrils. No, he actually wanted to duel Rapid. However, they had been interrupted by the T-rex's attack and he felt something strange.

This person shouldn't be messed with! It was an anxiety similar to when he dealt with Ark.

In fact, Ferguson had a reason to feel uneasy. The Alan in New World who Ferguson, A and B wanted to avoid was now Rapid. Alan was a user who had climbed to the ultimate position only to be slammed down by Ark and Ferguson, A and B had encountered him a few times.

Of course, Ferguson had no idea that Rapid was Alan. But his body still remembered. Ferguson's head sent him a signal that Rapid was dangerous. After being slaves of Ark in New World, he had unintentionally developed this type of instinct.

However, Ferguson was still angry!

"Rapid has a completely bad personality! It is evident that he is a social outcast! Won't that answer appear when looking at him? He is clearly a 30 something year old man still staying with his parents and playing games all day! He is that type of human!"

His mouth! How scary! And Ferguson's claim was unexpectedly close to the truth. In fact, Rapid was currently getting an allowance from his parents while playing the game. Well, it wasn't like Ark wanted to defend him.

Thanks to that, Rapid's reputation degenerated to a human trash.

“How can Ark-nim know such a person....”

“It is an unfortunate affinity.”

“I’m sorry. I thought he was Ark-nim’s friend and trusted....”

“No. Irina’s perspective is enough.”

Ark casually replied.

The situation was still annoying but Irina made him feel better.

“That Rapid, you don’t have to worry about him. He should be worried for the trick he played on Ark-nim. But this is serious. What do we do now?”

“It might be a prank but the message Rapid wrote on the rock was true. If this isn’t the correct direction then we will have to go back and move in another one. The previous attempt took 5 hours so this time it shouldn’t take too long. But before that.....”

Ark looked around the interior of the building.

Now it became clear that Rapid wrote down the wrong direction.

However, Ark had found a hidden place thanks to Rapid's antics.

In other words, Ark was the first one to visit this building. He couldn't leave without searching around this building.

"There is a reason why this was built in the forest. Someone made this building with a purpose. And it is certainly related to the phenomenon of the forest. Perhaps it might be helpful in locating the Silver Star so let's search the place."

"Yes."

The search of the building began.

The outside might be old but the interior contained modern facilities. For instance, the front door opened to a wide lobby with passages containing many doors. And a dizzying amount of equipment was scattered.

Despite the Dilopho, the building was proof that people had previously lived here. There were broken desks and cabinets. While examining the place, occasionally Dilopho would pop out. However, the Dilopho were easily fought. It wasn't surprising that monsters would pop out.

Wiiing! Buuuong! Buuuong!

He stepped on the heads of the Dilopho.

And he could also pick up some items just wandering around.

-Old Clothes (Rubbish)

Clothes made of unique fabric.

But it seems too old to be used.

-Faded Photos (Rubbish)

Faded photos of a species with a unique appearance. They resemble the Grey Clan but have longer arms and legs.

Written on the back of the photo is the phrase ‘For Alkan’s leaders!’ in an ancient language....

“Alkan Clan?”

This building was probably created by that species. However, he couldn’t obtain any more information from the rooms on the 1st floor.

Ark climbed the stairs to the 2nd floor and arrived at the end of the hallway. And he sliced up 2~3 Dilopho while wandering around. A message window popped up when he touched the door

at the end of a long hallway.

-This door is locked with a security device.

Enter the security code or use Invaders to hack and release the lock.

Attempt to hack? Y/N

“Ohu! A locked door!”

A smile flashed on Ark’s face. A lock. It meant the room needed special security. There was something hidden in the place! And an electronic lock wasn’t a problem for Ark.

“Well, it is just this much.”

Ark connected the Nymph to the lock. Ark activated the hacking program as Invaders started and began to attack the security device. And after a while, there was a clink as the lock opened.

“Pretty easy.”

Ark smiled and muttered.

Once again, Hacking was a fairly useful skill. He used this skill to open electronic locks as well as hacking a computer. Without Ark knowing anything, his Hacking skill had steadily grown.

He always carried japtém with circuits in order to improve his hacking skill. The circuit would improve his proficiency by 1.

This was his personality where he worked as a dog. He didn't want to be unable to open a door when it was important because his Hacking level was too low. He would rather sacrifice a good sleep in order to raise his hacking proficiency.

His fingers became bruised from playing mini-games over and over but Ark managed to raise it to Lv. 3.

-The rating of the skill 'Hacking (Common Profession ★★★★)' has risen!

Hacking (Advanced, Active): You have tapped into your knowledge of how to use rust. This will be helpful when you need it. You know better than anyone the result of an expert hacking. Your accumulated experience has improved the performance of Invaders. Now electronic locks of the lower grade, grade 1~6 can be automatically hacked with a 100% probability.

<You can hack electronic locks with a rating of 1~9. Grades 1~6 will automatically be disabled>

Mental power consumption: 50

This was the information window for Hacking Lv. 3.

The reward was worth it. It was possible to hack security devices grade 1~9 while grades 1~6 were automatically released.

At first, Ark had some fun but he became bored doing them repeatedly so this was good news. Now he didn't need to play mini games to hack grade 1 circuits.

All he needed to do was connect. Of course, this would increase the speed of his hacking proficiency. But that was for a later time.

“Now, let's see.....”

Ark entered the room with a look of anticipation.

Space 5: Bio-Plant (Part 2)

“This place....?”

The first thing he saw were dozens of capsules.

The capsules filled with milky vapour were lined up on both sides of the wall. And there were multiple monitors with blue screens in the centre of the room.

Ark walked forward towards the monitor.

-Bio-Plant Section B's present state.....

Experimental Conditions: Ecosystem Conditions-Normal

Fog Generators-Normal

Spatial Wards Equipment-Normal

Laboratory Conditions: Archived Samples Status-Abnormal

<All samples have been corrupted>

“Bio-plant?”

That message floated on the monitor.

Bio-plant, a biomedical research center. Many of Ark's questions had been resolved when he saw those words.

He was thinking it was strange. The T-rax and Dilophosaurus had been extinct a long time ago but now they existed in a space with heavy fog. This couldn't be natural. There was an artificial force.

Ark had those thoughts and he finally found the answers here.

"Experimental conditions, ecosystem, fog generator, spatial ward...in other words, the dinosaurs in the foggy forest and the building's owner...this must be the experimental place of the Alkan Clan. And this building is a type of laboratory to manage the forest and dinosaurs."

He could figure out those things immediately. The reason why the Alkans who created this laboratory disappeared was still a mystery.

However, those questions were placed aside. There was a limit to how much he could figure out. Ark had already entered this world. And he was nervous about Irina but he couldn't leave without finding Rapid and the Silver Hand.

It was natural. Ark was a user. A user had come to a dungeon. In addition, a mysterious ancient species had lived in this dungeon.

He was looking at something invisible.

Leaving such a place without properly exploring it was outrageous! Once he stepped inside, he needed to sweep through and grab everything in the nooks and corners. Then he needed to figure out information about this underground world. There was no reason to worry ahead of time.

And Ark already knew where he needed to go. Another monitor was next to the one about the laboratory data. There was a triangle floating on the monitor that was divided into three equal parts labelled Section B, Section A and Nosferatu.

‘This triangle is a map that shows the structure of the underground world. And the forest area I was wandering in is Section B. Next to it is Section A. The Silver Hand and Rapid probably went into Section A. And if they progress a little more then they will arrive in Nosferatu, at the end of the underground world.’

If the Silver Hand and Rapid were still safe then they would naturally join forces while heading towards Nosferatu. And Nosferatu was probably the central place of the Alkan.

There was a high probability that he could gain something from Nosferatu. The problem was getting there.

“It is simple.”

Ark laughed as he manipulated the computer.

The forest was confusion due to the fog and spatial distortions.

If he got rid of these two things then he could head straight through to Section A and then Nosferatu. And Ark was current in front of the computer managing the fog and spatial wards!

-Fog Generators-Stopped Working!

Spatial Wars Equipment-Stopped Working!

A simple manipulation could solve his problem.

“That’s it! Now....”

Ark’s gaze looked around.

“The specimens are probably being kept inside the capsules.”

The monitor stated that they were all corrupted. However, Ark was just ‘Ah, really? Then I have to see it.’ He needed to check everything. This was the correct action for a user! Ark manipulated the computer to open all the capsules.

Warururu. Tukk, busususu.

Dark objects poured out of the capsule. A thick stench also emerged along with it.

The dinosaurs witnessed in the forest were contained in the capsule but their status was closer to a fetus. But like the monitor said, it was just corrupted meat. However, he wasn't the type to get disgusted or queasy by something like this.

-T-Rex's Cells (Rubbish)

The cells of the T-rex that reigned as the strongest ancient creature. However, it is so badly corrupted that it is useless.

It is just rotten meat.

“Sheesh, why did I bother? The smell is entering my nose. Well, there is nothing else to be found so I should go.”

Ark grumbled.

Suddenly, a greasy object covering a rotten flesh caught his eye. A cry of confusion emerged from Ark's mouth.

“Eh? T-this is?”

The stench of rotten flesh. There was only one decaying body. The body was in the shape of a person. But that wasn't what caused Ark's surprise.

No, it wasn't a surprise to see a human mixed in with dead dinosaurs. It was more shocking to see the skin covering the body. The skin was like black, polished leather or metal. The texture of the skin was like the shell of an insect. The shape was different from Ark's but....

"Battle suit? Oh my god! A Rama battle suit!"

Ark immediately ran over to the rotten flesh.

It was indeed a battle suit. There was a significant number of scratches on the surface of the battle suit and clearly someone had equipped it.

Ark was completely confused.

'This is Istana. Why is there the body of a Rama in this place? In addition, the body was inside the capsule. A place that contains the samples of dinosaurs. In the end, the Alkan used the Rama as research material. Why? Weren't the Alkan's studying the ecology of dinosaurs?'

The questions kept on biting the tail of another question. However, Ark shook his head. He was curious but there wasn't any

explanation about the body. And currently, Ark couldn't obtain any information to explain it.

So worrying about it would only hurt his head. And those facts weren't important to Ark right now.

'I should go to Nosferatu to find the answer. No, I don't care about why the corpse of the Rama is here. The important ting is the Rama's battle suit!'

A Galactic Federation's mechanical battle suit could be upgraded. However, the Rama battle suit required the magical creature called Drone to upgrade. Two Rama battle suits were necessary for an upgrade. The experience would accumulate in one battle suit.

'And the other one....!'

Ark touched the battle suit. The battle suit was wrapped in blue light and turned into an octagonal object.

-You have obtained the core of a new battle suit!

<The Rama's battle suit is formed with the core of an ancient magic life form called the Drone. Therefore the Rama's battle suit can gain experience through combat like a user. However, the Drone doesn't have the power to change on its own and needs to absorb the experience from other Drones. The core contains the accumulated experience of the Drone. These two

are necessary conditions to evolve the battle suit>

* Cores Obtained to Date: (1X) Experience: 150,000/139,000

-You lack the necessary experience to evolve!

<The cores will fuse and automatically evolve when the amount of experience is satisfied.>

And the information window that appeared!

Unfortunately, he still lacked the experience to evolve.

However, simply fighting in a battle suit was enough to accumulate experience. The more difficult condition was to obtain the core of a battle suit. Once he absorbed a core, it was only a matter of time before his battle suit evolved.

‘Ooh! Jackpot!’

If he had to give a brief summary....

Ark had a way to obtain the cores. Upgrades for the Galactic Federation battle suit were available in stores so the core could probably be purchased in a Rama store.

In Ark's case, he was a member of the hostile Galactic Federation but it wouldn't be a problem in the space frontier where all three powers gathered together. Even so, there was a reason Ark opened his mouth and said 'Jackpot.'

Whether it was the Galactic Federation or Rama, materials could be purchased from stores to upgrade the performance. But if Ark reused a material that someone else used in the past then he would obtain bonuses.

The knowledge of the previous user. When Ark absorbed the battle suit of the Murat that died on Amara, he had obtained the skill Hyper Booster.

It meant there was an 'X' attached to the core! It meant a new skill would be created when upgrading the cores. The users shopped for ingredients so there was no reason to use old materials to upgrade.

Even if it took a while, material acquisition was more beneficial in the long term because it was a chance to obtain skills. That's why he was happy about a 'used' core!

But that wasn't the end. The '?' wearing the battle suit was a mummy. After the battle suit was removed, the skin of the mummy cracked and it turned into powder. And light was then sucked into Ark's hands?

At the same time, a video surfaced in front of him.

A ship was blowing out smoke on the ground.

Someone breathed roughly while staring at the ship with a desperate expression.

Then dozens of forms appeared on the ridge behind the spaceship.

They looked like the Alkans present in the photos found in the laboratory. The person wearing the battle suit resisted but was eventually captured by the Alkan. And just when he thought the video ended....

“Heok! Ugh! W-what is this?”

Ark was watching blankly when he screamed and jumped up. A sharp metal was in front of him. And a scream and blood rang out in the dark space!

At the same time, an information window appeared.

-You have absorbed the photon life form ‘Shire!’

The Shire are mysterious photon life forms and are some of the most mysterious creatures in the universe. According to old documents, they will condense over millions of years to form

mana. The Murat have the ability to use the power of the Shire through ‘Rune’ characters.

- + You have absorbed the Shire and acquired a Rune.
- + The strength of the new Shire has increased mana by 25.
- + You have acquired a Rune (Sham) from the Murat memory contained.

-A new skill (Common Occupation ★★★★☆) has been learnt.

Rune Carving – Sham (Users, Active): A rune modelled after the god that the ancient Murat served. At the time, the Murat served an unusual god until all the gods merged into each other.

The Murat made the rune ‘Sham’ to imitate the nature of the gods. People who have the Sham rune activated can combine two runes in order to manifest a new power.

- + Two runes can be fused in order to manifest a new effect.

“S-Shire! Wait? Then this corpse isn’t a Rama....”

It was a Murat. And perhaps this video was a memory imprinted on the Shire.

“What is this? Why is a Murat in this place? And that video just now? In the video, the Murat had been attacked by the Alkans. But he wasn’t killed. That last scene I saw....”

Blood was sprinkled all over the place and there was screaming! The Alkans had captured the Murat alive and tortured it. That’s why the Murat’s body was placed in the capsule as a sample.

He learned a few facts from this. The Murat meant the facility must have been created at least hundreds of years ago. And the Murat had a hostile relationship with the Alkans of this facility.

“Even so....”

It was hard to understand why the body was kept as a specimen. Originally the Murat was a peace-oriented species. In addition, other species worshipped the Murat like they were gods. Even so, wasn’t there a Murat Elim sanctuary on Istana?

Why was there a tribe hostile to the Murat? The situation was becoming more complex after finding out about the Alkan and the Murat. However, Ark didn’t think about it any deeper.

“Ark-nim, what is going on?”

Irina yelled as she came running. Ferguson, A and B followed

behind her while carrying their weapons. They had been searching the 2nd floor when they heard Ark's screams. And they flinched and retreated with fright when seeing the corrupted dinosaurs on the floor.

“T-this place?”

“That is where the forest is managed.”

“Managing the forest?”

Ark nodded at Irina's question and showed her the computers.

“The dinosaurs that we encountered in the forest were experiments created by the Alkan clan. And the Nosferatu of this underground world is probably the central place of the Alkans. The rest of the information will probably be obtained there.”

As expected of Irina! She neatly summed up the situation.

“But why were you screaming just now?”

“Huh? Oh, that.....”

It was only a short time ago but it seemed like a few hours.

“I was surprised by the rotten corpses pouring out of the capsule.

I'm a little weak to things like this.”

“Huh? That was the reason? Hmm, it is certainly nasty but....”

Irina looked at the corpses with an unconcerned expression.

“That is a surprising weakness.”

Why? Why did there seem to be a misunderstanding?

“Anyway, I've done everything I need to do in this room. And the odor is getting worse. And now we've confirmed the underground world's structure and disabled the fog and spatial distortions so it should be okay. Irina-nim, where did you search?”

“I was on the 2nd floor.”

“We went on the other side and was heading up to the 3rd floor when we heard your scream. We admire Ark-nim a great deal so we came running.”

“So we should go up to the 3rd floor.”

Ark moved up to the 3rd floor after hearing Ferguson's words.

The 3rd floor had an entirely different structure from the 1st and 2nd floor. It was the rear of the laboratory so there was no wall on

the cliff side. And there was a machine with an antenna.

“What is this machine?”

“Let’s make it work.”

Ark shrugged and walked over to the machine. The machine had a control panel but a password needed to be entered....

-Hacking has released the security device!

<Administrator privileges have been obtained so you can now operate the machine>

....A simple solution!

At the same time, the machine started buzzing as it started. And a red ray suddenly shot out from the antenna of the machine. For a moment, Ark thought it was a weapon like a laser. However, not long after the ray reached the other side of the cliff.

Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku!

An oval object flew along the ray. And it stopped before Ark, Irina, Ferguson, A and B with the door open.

A↔B

Letters were written on the surface of the oval object. An ‘!’ appeared on top of Ark’s head as he confirmed the information.

“Aha! That’s right! This is a cable car!”

“C-cable car? This isn’t a tourist attraction....”

“It isn’t an attraction but people lived here. And the underground world is considerably wide. Furthermore, there are dinosaurs like the T-rex in the forest. The Alkan probably didn’t want to go through the forest every time they needed to move to Section B or Nosferatu. Of course, they would make their own method of transportation. That is the cable car. This cable car has A↔B written on it so it moves between the laboratory and Section A. If so, there is probably a research institute in Section A that will lead to Nosferatu! We can just sit there and head to our final destination!”

Ark explained in an excited voice.

The Alkans had no need to explore the underground world. There were facilities made by the Alkan hidden here. And if they took the cable car then there was no need to fight the T-rex.

However, that wasn’t the only reason for Ark’s excitement.

‘That bastard Rapid, won’t his face be funny when he realizes

that this is thanks to his trick? The goddess of luck is with me. I never imagined that I would get a battle suit core and the Shire. There is also a cable car that heads to my destination! In the end, the fool just gave me shortcut!’

If Rapid was aware of this fact then he would throw a tantrum. That image caused all his stress to fly away. Irina thought of something and turned to Ark to ask.

“But if our paths cross the opposite way?”

“Cross?”

“Rapid and his group came here to look for the Silver Hand. What if Rapid finds the Silver Hand and heads back. Then wouldn’t we end up missing Rapid?”

“That won’t happen.”

Ark already thought about that.

Rapid didn’t pick up the phone because he knew Ark would curse at him. No, Ark didn’t even think about calling Rapid.

If Rapid hadn’t arrived at Nosferatu yet, it was likely that Ark would arrive there first due to the use of the cable car. Ark thought about Rapid would say if Ark arrived later.

-Heh, you're late.

And if he arrived before Rapid....

-Thank you. I was able to ride the cable car thanks to you.

‘I’m looking forward to the expression he will show.’

Of course, there was the problem that Irina mentioned.

‘Rapid finding the Silver Hand and coming back? That is impossible. Rapid isn’t a beginner. He spent 4 days here and still hasn’t emerged with the Silver Hand. He would probably sweep through the dungeon to pick up loot. Then he will eventually reach Nosferatu!’

“Then let’s depart.”

Ark smiled and entered the cable car.

Irina, Ferguson, A and B boarded after him. He pressed a switch and the cable car headed towards the other side of the cliff.

The day before.

“The end.”

Rapid suddenly raised his head.

A giant looming mountain was in front of him. They entered some rock formations after exiting the foggy forest.

Rapid had felt a strange feeling the moment he stepped foot in this place. He spent two days wandering in the stifling forest so escaping made him feel a large sense of accomplishment. Solving a puzzle with a high degree of difficulty after numerous trials!

‘This feeling is worth it.’

Rapid was a deeply caring man.

He felt a sense of accomplishment after using a lot of effort. So he gave Ark the opposite direction so he could experience the forest longer.

His troubles were eased whenever he thought of Ark suffering. He felt good imagining the scene of Ark wandering the forest! Imagining Ark’s rage when he arrived at the end in the wrong destination gave him an invigorating feeling like he was 10 years old again!

He did all this because he cared for Ark. He wanted Ark to experience the same sense of accomplishment.

However, that pleasure only lasted for a short moment.

'It is obvious but....'

There were common rules used in the dungeons of all games.

Enemy → strong enemy → even stronger enemy → scary enemy → even scarier enemy....

That was it. Stronger enemies would always emerge when progressing through dungeons. This rule also applied to the underground world.

Kwaaaaah!

Monsters were yelling strange sounds!

Once they emerged from the foggy forest to the rock formations, there were also dinosaurs. However, there were dinosaurs in the rock zone with 5~6 tails or those that looked like they were a mixture of different species joined together. Therefore looking at them gave him an unsettling feeling.

The only thing they had in common was that they were all strong!

Unlike the dinosaurs in the forest, they were clever and used

special attacks like spitting fire from their mouths. Rapid used the terrain to escape or counterattack.

It was confirmed that their level was between 150~160 but Rapid felt like he was fighting level 200 monsters. Thanks to Rapid abandoning Ferguson, A and B, he only had 6 people in his group.

‘It is fortunate.....’

The remaining team members were stronger than he expected. Among them, Ellain and Kurakan were especially prominent. Kurakan reconstructed his M-620 so the firepower was the best in the group! It could turn the dinosaurs into beehives in an instant.

And the one who gave Kurakan that opportunity was Ellain. The strongest warrior of the Kusan clan used sleek movements to act as a diversion, giving Kurakan the chance to fire.

Guns and swords! Firepower and agility! In no time, the combination of those two people became the flagship of Rapid’s party.

And Milan, Hegel and Asuran stayed back and conducted themselves in an orderly manner according to Rapid.

‘These NPCs managed to be gathered together.’

Their conduct was reliable. Ark’s NPCs certainly weren’t ordinary.

NPCs in the game had will but that didn't mean they worked exactly the same as the user. And sometimes the NPCs were more useful than users e.g. Ferguson, A and B.

‘Indeed, Ark always had the talent to attract NPCs like this.’

Even so, the deformed rock dinosaurs were tough opponents. So Rapid threw away his impatience. He moved around and lured 1~2 dinosaurs. He then moved to a safe place with the group of monsters he lured.

It took a bit more time but Rapid wasn't in a hurry. He knew that impatience was the most dangerous when dealing with nasty enemies.

Taking it step by step! He was patient and slowly advanced forward. It wasn't long before he could find the Silver Hand.

The Silver Hand was stranded on a stony mountain while surrounded by dozens of deformed dinosaurs.

He could understand their situation with just one glance. The Silver Hand had 20 people. Ark had dispatched 8 Royal Guards to save the Silver Hand so there were 28 people. Rapid had come this far with only 6 people but he had advanced easier than the Silver Hand.

‘Perhaps there is poison.’

This situation was something that users commonly experienced. Those with sufficient power would release their tension. And they couldn't afford to fight or other members might intrude on the battlefield. So they had climbed up the stony mountain in order to escape the dinosaurs. However, Rapid didn't rush towards the Silver Hand when he found them.

He hid nearby and watched the dinosaurs closely to get the proper timing to lure the dinosaurs.

He led them hundreds of metres away and slowly reduced the number. This lasted for 4 hours. Eventually, there were only 10 dinosaurs around the mountain and they were wiped out in a pincer movement with the Silver Hand.

His objective in the underground world had been achieved! This was a turning point.

‘My objective has been achieved. But.....’

Rapid was also a user. And this was a place for users, a dungeon. The objective to rescue the Silver Hand was achieved but they still hadn't cleared the dungeon.

There was no user who would give up on such a dungeon. Furthermore, Rapid was curious about why this place had dinosaurs. No, he hadn't spent the last three days reaching here just to turn around with nothing.

-So? In the end you just gave up? Is this okay?

He imagined Ark saying those words!

So Rapid thought about it. He couldn't go back. And there was no need to go back. So far it had been pretty hard but hadn't he now joined up with the Royal Guards and the Silver Hand?

Their speed would naturally grow.

“I would like to examine the end of this dungeon.”

“Me too!”

Clem spoke the right answer.

“Of course we have to go! Although we made a mistake due to the structure, we are search specialists. How can I show my face in the future if I just run away now? Ark needed to dispatch people to rescue us. We haven't even obtained any loot yet.”

“As long as we obtain the loot before Ark gets here.....”

The Silver Hand accompanied Rapid! Thus, 34 people marched forward after the Silver Hand joined Rapid.

....In other words, Rapid didn't deviate from Ark's expectations.

Anyway, their march speed went UP! UP! UP! Rapid and his companions ran at a speed many times faster than before. Meanwhile, the rock formations were becoming increasingly narrower.

Rapid belatedly learnt some facts. The underground world had cliffs on the left and right sides. The width increasingly became narrower.

'In other words, his underground world is shaped like a triangle. Then the answer is simple. Perhaps the end of the underground world is the apex of the triangle! Clearly there is a narrow plateau that will be the final destination.'

Rapid's guess was correct. Now Rapid was facing a cliff that narrowed little by little. And at the end was the silhouette of a huge building.

"This is the final destination of the underground world!"

"Dammit!"

Ark's lips twisted.

Ark had imagined a comfortable and pleasant ride in the cable car as he headed to the final destination.

However, Ark had forgotten. Galaxian was a virtual reality game. A dungeon would never be comfortable! Ark's fate meant he could never take a break!

“It was solved too easily!”

The cable car arrived at the institute in Section A as expected.

-A↔ Nosferatu

And when Ark arrived at the rooftop of the laboratory, there was also a cable care heading towards Nosferatu.

The problem was that it was smashed. It wasn't just the cable car. The computers and equipment inside the laboratory were also smashed.

It was unbearable. Anyway, he had travelled half-way comfortably.

However, the laboratory in Section A was built on a sheer cliff. Section A was beyond the cliff but there was no way to get down. The only means of transportation was the cable car connecting section B and Nosferatu. But the cable car connected to Nosferatu was destroyed.

There could only be one conclusion from this!

“This...what do we do now?”

“Are you really asking that question now?”

Ark snapped towards the crying Ferguson.

“Do you have wings?

“Huh? Oh no, I don’t?”

“So what else are we going to do?”

“....Go back?”

“If you know already then don’t ask such annoying questions!”

They could only return to the laboratory in Section B. And then walk through the foggy forest, past Section A and into Nosferatu. This was a really annoying strategy!

And the trip was in vain but he managed to get quite a lot of japtém from the laboratory in Section A!

‘Now I have to catch up with Rapid.’

This was the most annoying thing. But there was no other way. He gazed at the broken cable cars with regret. In the end, Ark sighed and got back on the cable car.

Irina then thought of something and turned to Ark.

“Isn’t there something strange?”

“What?”

“There is nothing else in the area. We wouldn’t have arrived here if we hadn’t taken the cable car. So why is the facility in Section A more broken than in Section B?”

“Huh? That....”

It was strange now that he heard about it. But why was it important now?

“There has to be some circumstances. Anyway, we’re not coming back so this has nothing to do with us. And if we head to Nosferatu then everything will be revealed....”

Ark shrugged and replied.

Kiyeaaaaak!

There was a sudden sound.

Space 6: Nosferatu

“Wh-What is it?”

Koong! Koong! Koong!

Deafening racket coming down from up above!

Irina lifted her head with perplexity.

“Wait here for few moments!”

Ark yelled as he ran to the cable car station and grabbed on to the handrail. Then, in order to check outside, he stuck his head out through a prominent hole in the wall.

No, before he was able to stick his head out, a dark shadow fell from above, right in front of him. He didn't even have time to see what it was.

A sharp and long object flew in like a spear!

“No, No way!”

Wee-ing! Booong! Wee-ing! Wee-ing!

Ark stepped back and swung his equalizer.

White particles and that sharp “thing” tangled in the air as the sparks flew everywhere.

It was a surprise attack, but infighting is Ark’s forte.

While the “thing” spread throughout the room, Ark stood his ground and rotated his lightsaber and reflected the “thing’s” attack upwards. Its head flung up exposing its lower parts wide open.

The moment was ripe for the Ark’s piercing attack!

Kyahh!

It whaled as its head rotated 360 degrees.

At this point, something invisible enveloped Ark and sent a tingling sensation throughout.

-‘you have been hit!’

Beyond unfathomable condition!

‘Crap! What is this so suddenly...,’ Ridgidly stunned Ark screamed in his head.

It was at this time while he helplessly looked at the flying thing's snout.

"Sword! The sword nine!"

Irina unleashed her twin swords and charged.

Instantly, the thing's body was covered in flaying injury, and at the same time, Ferguson shakily pulled out his revolver launcher and fired the grenade.

"Brace for impact!"

Pu-tung! Pu-tung! Pu-tung!

Consecutive flames shot out of the things body!

Shaken by the impact, the thing bounced out of the cable car station. It was then that the thing spread right to left.

Outside of the station was the steaming heat from the flowing lava right underneath, but the spread out thing was fluttering up back toward the station.

Finally, freed from the paralysis, moaning sound flew out of Ark's mouth.

“.....Teradoctal!”

That's right; that was the thing that attacked Ark.

A dragon with a wingspan of 6-7 meters and beak that was sharp and long like a spear. In reality, rather than a dragon, it was more like a bird, but still!

The thing was a pterosaur called Teradoctal.

Now that the mystery attacker's identity has been revealed, Irina's question regarding the destruction of the research lab built on a safely isolated section A was naturally solved.

The villain was definitely the pterosaur.

“Hick! It, it's coming again!”

At that moment, underling A screamed from the other end of the room.

Now that he turned his head, pterosaur was flying toward the station in the Nosferatu side. No, it wasn't just that side.

As soon as Ark turned his body toward that side, another pterosaur stuck its head through the already broken window and plunged its beak.

Ark flung his arm as he rotated his body.

“Basak, Poke-sae* (TL: sorry I have no idea what this word is, but it is some kind of attack where something is fired...such as his head)

-O~ohohoh!

Summoned Basak’s fang-like head soared through the air.

Flying head of Basak, which had, effectively, pushing element, pterosaur that got hit in the chin fell away from the window.

However, that was only the beginning.

From that point on, pterosaurs restlessly started to fly into the both cable car stations leading toward Nosferatu, the biomedical research center B, and the rows of windows on the wall. Ark and Irina, Ferguson, A, and B were simultaneously bombarded with pterosaurs beaks!

“Crap! Get away from the window! Sonic sword!”

“Rapid sword!”

“Oowahh! Impact shells! Impact shells!”

PAZZEEZEE! KAKAKAKAK! PU-TUNG! PU-TUNG! PU-TUNG!

Station in the section A instantly became a crucible of chaos.

Ark and Basak mindlessly ran around releasing sword chi while Irina did the same with her rapid sword! As for Ferguson, he launched impact shells after impact shells toward pterosaurs that were flying in from all direction.

They had some success in driving away the pterosaurs with their attacks, but only for a brief moment. Flapping their long wings, as they flew around in circles, they, again, returned to launch endless assaults.

“.....We can’t hold out like this!”

It didn’t take long to arrive at this conclusion.

Luckily, each station had roof to provide some shelter.

The only way the pterosaurs were able to attack them was boarding the stations through the windows, and thus, the gang were able to selectively pummel the pterosaurs off.

The problem is what comes after.

The most efficient way to fight off numerous enemies is to attack

singularly.

By focusing all the attacks on one enemy at a time, enemy's number will systematically drop. However, when they were flying in from all direction, this stratagem does not work. Also, only time they could attack was when the pterosaurs came in for the attack. There was no way to attack them when they fly off.

Of course in the Galaxian, there are guns.

Also, even if the users were infighters, they would, naturally, have at least a gun as a backup.

However, for a swordsman, marksmanship is always a plan b.

It would not be a problem if one was rich like Hawk, but regular users have hard enough time matching firearms to their respective levels, and therefore, can't even attack properly. There is no way a regular user can adequately equip a backup weapon. Therefore, Ark's b weapon is still only a level 60 Fire Eagle.

Alternately, pterosaurs are lower in level, as compared to T-rex, but their levels were in the 100's.

There is no way a Fire Eagle would deal much damage to them. Not only that, even though its range is longer than a sword, it is a shotgun. Its effective range is less than 10 meter, and thus it's impossible to use.

Irina's situation was the same.

Since she is also a swordswoman, her range weapon was just a normal pistol.

Only person capable of dealing damage to the pterosaurs is Ferguson, but even he was not very helpful in this kind of situation. Even though he was a ranged weapon user, his weapon was a revolver launcher, though it was an astronomically expensive launcher...

Revolver Launcher SW-304 (rare)

Item type: Attached Grenade launcher: level 100

Attack Power: 30~150 Fire rate: 10.5 Sec

Durability: 80/80 Load number: 8

Shells in the cylinder are capable of continual fire. Even though there are variations in the shots, such as lightning shots and flame shots, there are limits in the variations applied to such small shells.

Alternately, bigger shells, in order take advantage of the size, are made for special shots rather than regular shots.

SW-304 is a specially designed launcher to house special shells. However, the disadvantage of lessened effective range was not corrected. Also, parabolic path that the shell takes as it approaches its target reduces accuracy.

However, do not worry. Regardless, grenade launcher is an

AOE type weapon. You can still deal some damage even if you missed the target!

This was Ferguson's Revolver Launcher.

Basically, due to it being a grenade launcher, its effective range is 50 meter only. Also, it is very difficult to accurately adjust the rounds on something that flies in parabolic manner.

Well, despite that, it can damage multiple targets at once, but...

“Hyu, Hyungnim, its coming!”

“Move! Take that, you damned dinosaur chick! Continuous fire!”

Pu-Tung! Pu-Tung! Pu-Tung!

-Friendly fire from the grenade caused splash damage!

Damage 35! Damage 26! Damage 17....

Emergent Message opened up right in front of Ark's eyes along with the spreading flames!

Its unfortunate, but Ark and the gang were in the interior of the building. When you are firing grenades toward pterosaurs that

were flying through the window, it is inevitable that the flame would spread inward.

There was no other way than Ark and Irina to be included in the damage.

“You, son of a...! What are you doing right now? You want to kill us all?”

“Bu, but...”

“If you are a heavy damage dealer, you should, like any other heavy damage dealer, think things through! If your brain can’t follow the situation, at least stay still and don’t do anything! If you can’t even process the situation you are in and mess around, I can make sure you die, you got that, huh?

Smoked and burned, Ark yelled at the top of his lungs.

However, even without Ferguson’s sabotage, the situation was getting worse and worse. The bad thing was that because they were inside of a building, they couldn’t determine just how many pterosaurs were outside waiting for them.

“We can’t accomplish much by staying in here!”

Once he made this decision, Ark yelled to everyone as he turned around.

“Irina, Ferguson, A, B, get in the cable car! We are moving to section B!”

“Yes! We all....huk! Ar~Arknim!”

“What now? Huk! W~Why is that?”

Ark’s face turned quizzical when he turned his head.

They didn’t notice while they were chaotically combating the pterosaurs, but for some reason the cable car that they used to bring them over to section A was already returning to section B.

Why is this? There was no time to even ask.

If they don’t do something, they are stuck in section A!

“Basak, get rid of this thing!”

-Oooo! Surge!

Basak surged and tackled pterosaur.

Now that the pterosaur that was about to come inside the cable car station had been taken care of, Ark quickly ran to the machine that controlled ‘A-B’ position function of the cable car. Then he

pushed the button! What was distant cable car stopped and started to come back around, but only for a moment.

“Wh, what? Why? Why is it going back?”

Though the cable car was returning to section A, it stopped once again and headed the other way? Not able to comprehend, Ark looked back to the control panel, and what used to be B → A was changed to A → B.

“Why is it doing this? Come back! Come back I say!”

Pushi! Pushi! Pushi!

-B→A! A→B! B→A! A→B! B→A....

No matter how many times he pushed, it changed back again and again.

In Ark's mind he was about to go crazy!

“Damn! Is it broken? Why at this time....”

Rollercoaster to hell that kept going round and round....

However, it was impractical to keep on wrestling with the control panel.

Not only was the situation getting worse with the pterosaurs attacking, Ferguson, A, and B were of no help.

While Ark was wrestling with the control panel, Irina was doing her best to manage the situation, but two pterosaurs somehow were slowly coming inside.

“Arknim, they are....”

“We can’t do anything at this rate! I will take the rear. Retreat to the second floor!”

“Okay! Sword Nine! Pah!”

With Ark’s yell, Irina swung her sword at the pterosaur and she was about to run down the steps leading to the second floor.

Kyahahah!

“No!”

Roar and Irina’s scream sounded from below!

As he turned his head in surprise, he saw a pterosaur overrun Irina and coming up the stairs.

It was then that he finally remembered that the second floor also had bunch of windows.

It was obvious that since it was hard to get in from the third floor, they started to come in from the second floor.

Neither Ark nor Irina thought about that!

With fast reaction, Irina pulled up her sword, but was hit by the beak and was knocked down. Then pterosaur stepped down on Irina's arm and aimed for Irina's neck with its beak.

Ark wouldn't just stand there and do nothing.

"No you don't! Piercing!"

Ark flew as he changed into blitz of light.

However, the situation turned into something unimaginable.

Once Ark's skill initiated, pterosaur that was attacking Irina turned its head, and as if it realized that it didn't have the luxury to leisurely dine out, it roared and ran toward outside. But....

"Arknim!"

"Huk! Irinanum! Damn it!"

Irina's condition was not good.

Pterosaur had kidnapped Irina and already made its getaway.

At this rate, if pterosaur ran outside the reach of his sword chi range, there is nothing that can be done. Also, even if it was, technically, still in sword chi's range, there is no way it would be effective enough to bring down the pterosaur. It would be just spinning the wheels!

“Armour Armament!”

Ark ran toward Irina and the pterosaur, and at the same time that the battle suit enveloped his body, he screamed as he looked at the running away pterosaur.

“Armament bind!”

Instantly chest portion of the battle suit opened up and tens of ropes of light came out. Then, like laser, the ropes flew toward the pterosaur and wrapped around it.

Function of the armament that can bind the enemy! Following through, Ark flew toward the pterosaur as he pulled on the ropes.

At the same time a white sword chi was unleashed.

“Fly! Sonic Sword!”

Pu-pu-pu-pung!

Pterosaur whaled in agony as it wobbled side to side.

As Ark landed another hit, pterosaur spazzed in pain as it loosened its hold on Irina. In the mean while, Ark grabbed pterosaur's neck, got on its back, and used the bind function of the armament and snatched Irina away from pterosaur and into his embrace.

“Are you okay Irinanim?”

“A~Arknim...”

It is said that the woman's affection toward a man would rise in times of fear.

It was the truth. Ever since she got to the planet, Irina was in a grumpy mood because she thought that Ark was in a petulant mood due to the wasted time, but what was, now, in Irina's face was boundless trust and emotion!

However, unfortunately, Ark was not able to see that. It was not the time for that!

Kyahahah!

At the sound of the shriek the two shook.

With the unintended passengers on board, the pterosaur flew up, down, side to side in its acrobatic effort to dislodge the two.

All the while, fearful Irina hugged Ark even more tightly and was constantly increasing affection toward Ark, but....

‘We can’t do anything in this situation!’

So focused was he to the combat situation, Ark failed to even register inkling of Irina’s touch.

“Hold on tight! Armament Bind!”

While white lights of ropes shot out toward the station A from Ark’s chest, the pterosaur did a loop in the air, strangling its neck with the lights of ropes in the process and got stuck, bound to the roof of the station.

“Now’s the time!”

Whi-ing! Boo-ong! Whi-ing! Kakakak!

Ark and Irina’s sword attacks resumed!

Pterosaur was only level 100, and at the same time, due to it being an aviation monster, its defense was not that great. Attacked while bound, it was nearly instantly turned into a chunk of meat.

But it is too early to relax.

Ark and Irina were on top of the research lab. They were overwhelmingly exposed to the overflying pterosaurs.

Kyahahah! Kyahahah!

Of course, as soon as one monster was taken care of, mob of pterosaurs started to swoop down toward them. Irina ran, quickly, toward the edge of the roof while screaming.

“Arknim, let’s first go back down...”

“Go ahead and go back down!”

“Huh?”

“It’s okay now.” Ark responded with raised lips.

Irina felt discomforted at the thought of Ark’s response.

There is no place to hide on top of the roof. Also, pterosaur is an aviation monster. No matter how skilled Ark was, there was no

way he can take them on at a place like this.

But it is okay? Is he giving up now that we don't have any option?

....so she thought....

'If I get rid of at least one, I can fight them!'

Such was going through Ark's mind as he was thinking out his strategy, but it was too hard to finish off a swooping down pterosaur with one or two hits only.

Even if he was to disrupt their flight, on a narrow rooftop, he would be subject to a siege combat. At such time of indecision, Irina was, snatched up by the pterosaur already. Though it was fearful situation, due to the circumstance, Ark was lead to the action that he needed to make.

"Come out Shire!"

It was then that Ark's hand was enveloped in a bright light. The light elongated and formed a pattern in the air!

"Rune Carving! Ikram!"

As the light permeated throughout the area, God of death Anubis surfaced.

All of a sudden, dead body of pterosaur that was collapsed on the rooftop shook and dark red life form started to crawl out. On its head was a horn and its snout came out like a spear. Though it had pterosaur's head, its body was that of a hell's hound!

However, this hell hound differed from previous hell hounds. Hell hound that was made by level 2 Ikram, not only took on a physical likeness of the host, it also took on the physical traits of the host, and in this case....

Crrrr!

Hell hound got up as it let out a shallow cry. At the same time, its giant wings opened up. Though it was smaller than the T-rex, pterosaur was still a 6-7 meters big dinosaur. The hell hound that took over this body was about 4 meters big.

“Fly! Hell hound!”

Kung! Kung! Boooooong!

Once Ark got on top of the hell hound, it screamed as it took off into the air. All the other pterosaurs that witnessed this phenomenon had wide eyes, as if even they couldn't fathom what they were seeing.

But even that was just for a moment. They turned off of their current flight path and set their sight on Ark.

“But if the conditions were the same....”

Ark swung his arm and Basak that was watching the development changed into a light and returned to the bracelet. Convenience of Baius Shield was this.

When summoning, Ark can only summon it right next to him, but when recalling it, the distance allowed is much more.

“Come out Basak! Surge!” and right after, morph!

Like an arrow, it surged toward the pterosaur that was coming closer. At the same time, Basak’s head changed into that of a sharp spear and shot out.

At the moment of their crossing, there was a loud thug sound followed by a visual of pterosaur pinned to the side of a cliff, and leisurely flying Ark looked as if he was one of those mythological knights.

“....there is no reason why I will be pushed.” Ark mumbled as he let out a self-satisfied laugh.

Well, even though what I am riding is a drooling dog!

Even though golam’s head looks like that of a spear!

“Awesome! That was so cool!” Such statement would be obviously blurted out if others saw this scene.

Though the reason was for the sake of Irina’s safety, the resulting outcome was that the combat was flowing in Ark’s pace.

“Come out, Shire! Firam!”

Giant Eye came up out with a light on the battle field.

Through the giant eye Ark was able to see 6 pterosaurs that was flying around the section A research lab area. Not a number to be relaxed about, but at the same time, it’s not too big of a number to worry over.

“Khafra Sword Style 3! Galaxy Sword!”

– Surge!

Pu-pu-pu-pung! Pu-pu-pu-pung!

Now that Ark entered the battle in earnest, as he weaved in and out among the other pterosaurs, there were all sorts of bright lights that permeated the sky.

Of course pterosaurs didn’t let Ark bully them without any response. They got together in a group formation as each pterosaurs let out fear inducing scream as they applied pressure.

But of course, Ark isn't someone to be affected by such. Not only that, neither Basak, whose body turned into a chunk of rock, or hell hound that was summoned out of hell were susceptible to fear. They both became one with Ark as they systemically fought on, and once 3 of them fell from the battle, the other three changed direction with a scream to exit the battle.

Kyahah! Kyahah!

Though it can't be sure what they were saying to each other, but it can be surmised that it was like a threat saying "we'll see next time."

However, Ark wasn't playing. "I don't think so! Solid armor, Pyretom!" It was a brand new armor that came out of his back and enveloped his body. Concurrently, as Ark looked at the running away pterosaurs, a message popped up.

-Lock on! Lock on! Lock on! Lock on....

It was a homing light that locked on to all three pterosaurs.

"Carpet bombing!"

Pushoong! Pushoong! Pushoong! Pushoong!

Next instant, Ark's shoulder opened up like a balloon and 12 missiles shot out. Pyretom, a missile system that simultaneously fires 12 small missiles to intercept the targeted enemies. Carpet Bombing!

Pterosaurs, after seeing 12 missiles coming toward them with streaming tail smoke, they understood that danger was approaching. They flapped their wings like there is no tomorrow, but there is no way they would be faster than missiles.

Kauggg! Kauggg! Kauggg!

Pterosaurs were turned into dark firecrackers as they disappeared into thin air with the sonorous explosion.

And then Ark....

“Arknim, that was stupendous! You killed that many pterosaurs by yourself!”

“Wow! Of course! Hey what are you doing? Hyungnim needs to rest! Give him a massage!” As soon as he landed, he was showered with praise. Well, that was to be expected. Even Ark was impressed with himself this time.

Of course if the heavily drooling hell hound with a head of a pterosaur was not present he would have looked better, but it was too premature to cancel the summon. He didn't get enough out of it yet.

“But what do we do now?” At that point, Irina let out a deep sigh as she opened her mouth.

“The cable car is on the B section....”

“We no longer have a need to go back there.” Though it wasn’t loyalty, but was their unwillingness to return to being Ark’s slaves, Ark shook his head while he was getting his back massaged by Ferguson, A, and B.

“While I was fighting with the pterosaurs, I saw a silhouette of a structure few kilometers from here. Considering the direction, I would assume it is the Nosferatu that we are heading to. There is no point in going back when the final destination is right in front of us. We’ll simply get on this thing and fly over there.” Ark responded as he tapped on the hell hound.

Even though it was a bit dangerous due to the pterosaurs, it was due to them that they now have a straight shot to their destination. However, there was no time to be happy. Due to the fight with the pterosaurs, he had nearly used up most of his mana. Also, even as the hell hound was doing nothing but drooling, it was still consuming Ark’s mana.

Thus the gang got on top of the hell hound in an instant.

“Lift off, hell hound!”

At the moment of Ark's order, the loyal hell hound took off with the gang on top of it, and the emerging silhouette is Nosferatu! It was the final destination of the Jurassic World.

"We're here! We're here!"

Sector B research lab 3rd floor

One woman was yelling as she jumped up and down.

Her name is Kaya. Though it is hard to believe, but she was interested in Rapid. Let's not ask why. She just liked him from the very first meeting. Her reason for jumping up and down was him. She had recently received information that Rapid was heading to the Jurassic World. She has been tailing him ever since. She was going to pretend as if she ran into him coincidentally, but her plan was shot down in just a few minutes after she landed.

'This is strange! There is something wrong with this place!' This is the forest that she ended up while tailing Rapid.

The visibility was poor, never seen before dinosaurs kept on popping up, she kept on going around in circles, and she kept on hearing screeching screams, though some of the screams were from Ferguson and his lackeys.

A woman ended up in such dreary place.

'It's scary, scary and frightened!'

She felt like doing away with the lovey feeling and leave this dreary forest. However, she's already inside the forest, and no matter how many times she tried, she ended up in the same place. It was just recently that she found a rock with the written words.

“Stupid Ark, I just wanted to say that once.”

Real information was on the bottom side of the rock.

‘Hey, this is Rapid!’ There was no name on the rock, but she was sure that it was him. While they were traveling together, she studied the interaction between Ark and Rapid, as well as doing some investigation on Ark’s agents. That’s how she knew.

There is no one else in this forest that would leave such message to Ark.

‘Now I know where he is!’ So she made her decision:

Modified Plan: Rescue Rapid was the initial plan → got lost → Let’s go find Rapid → Request rescue from Rapid.

In this manner.

She wasn’t able to follow her initial plan, but after thinking it over this new plan didn’t sound bad either, and in certain way may be more advantageous. Actually, she didn’t have any choice. There

was no way for her to find her way out of this forest on her own.

As such...follow the direction written on the rock!

....so she decided, but she was not able to completely understand Rapid's message. Even before she finished reading the message, T-rex popped out and chased her away, was one of the reasons, but....

'What is this about junction, what is all this?' She wasn't that smart. Therefore, she still kept up ending up at the same location time after time. It was during this time.

All of a sudden, the fog that was hiding the forest disappeared. Also, that mysterious energy that made her go around in circles also disappeared. Because of that, she was able to penetrate the forest by following the direction.

Just seconds ago she was able to locate a building near the cliff area, and after looking around even not so smart woman like herself was able to figure out the situation.

She realized that this Jurassic World is something that was made by a man, and the building that she found was a research lab. The most important part was that, not too long ago, someone has passed by that location.

'This has got to be Rapid! It wasn't long since he passed by here!'

On the message that Rapid wrote, it said that he was going in the

direction of the research lab. Also, it also said that the research lab had the means of turning off the fog and the mysterious energy field.

Said in another way, the fact that the energy field and the fog disappeared means Rapid just got into the research lab?

‘Even though I have spent 4 days in this miserable forest, but the distance is not that great’

Kaya went up to the 3rd floor, and went to the cable car controller. She noticed that the cable car was in the A section, so she made it come back to the B section, but for some reason it stopped and was returning to A section!?

“What is this? Is it broken? No! Come back! Come back!” Getting a bit anxious, she kept on pushing the return button.

After a while the cable car finally was returning to where she was.

‘Good! Now I can catch up to Rapid!’ Feeling optimistic, she went inside the cable car. Her chances at love was, in real, was arduous.

Boggle Boggle

Lava from the lower areas of the Jurassic World was raising the temperature. At this time, a big animal carrying 5 people was flying right above the molten lava. It was such a unique animal. Its head was elongated like a bird, but as you look further down its body, it appeared as a four legged animal. Unlike a bird, it was covered in fur, and no matter who looked at it, it was a dog.

In spite of that, it had long wings with a wing span of 6-7 meters. This irregular pedigree monster was none other than the hell hound that was born inside of a dead pterosaur!

And this hell hound was....

Hek! Hek! Hek! Hek!

It was panting with a miserable face. It makes perfect sense, as it was carrying 5 people on its back, and even though it was big, 5 people are just a bit too much. The hell hound was suffering so much so that even the insensitive Ark was feeling sorry for it, but it had to be done.

Ark had already fought with a group of pterosaurs, and thus, his mana was already near bottoming out. Even then, they didn't have the time to wait until his mana recovered. As such, he had no choice but to use only one hell hound to carry all 5 of them....though hell hound was showing the most pitiful state!....though, numerous times, Ark had to consider whether kicking Ferguson, A, and B off the ride would be the most logical

thing to do!

Luckily, there was no need for that. Birthed from Level 2 Ikram, hell hound kept on flapping its wings even while wheezing in the most pitiful manner, eyeing the final destination which was just right in front of its nose.

“Over there is....” Ark swallowed his dry mouth as he squinted to have a better look. The building that only appeared as a small silhouette from section A research lab was a massive building seating on top of an end of the long bridge that originated from the field of land overlooking the lava.

“Do you think over there is the Nosferatu?”

“Probably.” Ark nodded.

Even if looking from the geographical stand point, there was no doubt. It was located on the very tip of a vertex of the triangular land of the Jurassic world. There were no other significant buildings besides Nosferatu. It was a no brainer.

At Ark’s response, Irina showed somewhat of an emotion filled childish facial expression.

“We really did come all the way over here.”

“Of course. That was the reason why we came here.”

“But when thinking about the mysterious forest and all the trouble that we have had with the cable car, I really didn’t think we could make it. Thought of giving up surfaced a few times in my mind, but we really made it to the end.”

“It’s all because of your help.”

“Well, I was just...” Irina just let it be. Even though she felt thankful, but deep down inside, she knew. The one that took care of most of the T-rex, the one that figured out Rapid’s message to find the research labs, and the person responsible for proving a ride to the final destination was all Ark and his strength that made it happen.

Also, even though Ferguson, A, and B had played some role, Irina felt like she didn’t contribute anything worth noting. Of course she did fight earnestly, and thus she had to have been some kind of help, but Ark would have been able to come all the way over here even if she was not here, and the same would not be the case if the role was reversed.

‘This is the difference in skill between the two of us.’

Irina wanted to spend more time with Ark. Not only this time, but in the future as well. Therefore, once her mission with the Federation came to an end, she was contemplating becoming one of Ark’s agents. She also hoped that Ark would subtly offer her an agent position, but there was no such a thing. That’s why this trip was important to her.

She thought that this was a chance to make Ark realize that she was needed by him, and she was going to speak her mind with confidence, after the mission, that she wanted to be one of Ark's agents. The result was less than spectacular.

Not only was she not of help, she only became an experience sapping entity. If said more harshly, she was no different than a beggar.

‘I can’t tell him, at this rate!’

“Irinanim, look over there!” It was then that Ark called out to her.

She perked herself up and turned her head as she squinted her eyes to have a better look. Nosferatu was at least 10 stories tall, and its windows were all busted, but the in the very top most windows were sparks that were spurting out. Ark was pointing right at those sparks.

“That is Saturation!”

“Saturation?”

“There is currently a battle going on up there!”

“If there is a battle then...”

“Yes, it’s Rapid’s team.” Ark responded with a snicker.

Even though she was thinking about depressing things, Ark was worrying about totally different thing.

Knowing Rapid, even if he got in contact with the Silverhand, he would still head to the Nosferatu. There was no doubt. Also, if, right now, Silverhand and Rapid’s team combined, there would be no problem in attacking the Nosferatu. This last part was Ark’s worry.

Would it be possible to reach the Nosferatu before Rapid consumes all of the experience?

There is no point in saying, but Ark also faced hardship in getting this far. If he was alone there would be no problem, as Rapid was his subordinate, and there is no boss that would be unhappy about his subordinate completing a mission. However, Ark was not alone this time. He was with Irina.

He came all the way over here with Irina while going through all the hardships....all for nothing, potentially. His reason for milking the hell hound to fly all the way over here was for this reason, to get to the objective before all is over. However, there are bunch of sparks coming out of the Nosferatu.

There was no need to think about who was over there fighting, and the fact that there is still a battle going on is an indication that Rapid was still in the process of finishing the mission! It’s not too

late!

“Hell hound, its that window! Charge!” Ark grabbed hell hound’s mane and yelled.

‘Wait Rapid! Soon enough, all important me will, be, res-cu-ing, you!’

Motivation was overcharged.

Space 7: Ultimate Serum

TooTooTooToo! TooTooTooToo!

Countless gunshots violently shook the fabric of space as it explosively shot through the air.

Once the whole area has been saturated with gunshots from the darkness, rose scores of humanoid shapes. Then the next moment, in between those shadows, was a man's silhouette moving quickly.

All around the man that was bursting through the shadows, as if he was sliding, there were flashes of light.

"Threading! Rapid fire! Automatic fire!"

Tang-! Tang-! Tang-! Tang-!

Shots that spread in all direction, along with that man!

Even though his finger stayed near the trigger, as he twirled around his pistol, only to shoot some random shots, his shots were heading straight toward his targets. Such feat was definitely not easy. This shooting skill was the result of thousands and thousands of shots being fired while in the highly concentrated state of mind!

The name of this gunslinger hero is!

- I feel dizzy! Dang it, I feel dizzy! I am getting motion sickness! I am gonna vomit! You okay with that?

At that time, unexpectedly, he was bombarded with some absurd noise in his head. In an instant, like as if a razor cut straight through his concentration, the man's 99% accuracy rate did a nose dive to 50~60%.

As a result, the enemy force that was heavily suppressed by the man's superb pistol skill started their come-back.

KoooKooong! Kwakwakwakwa! Kwakwakwakwa!

“Damn it!” The man retreated back as he cursed at the situation.

“That damn Ark! Why is it that when he’s giving he only gives that kind of....”

The man looking down at his pistol with enraged eyes was no other than Rapid, and the pistol with a black aura that kept on seeping out from the top of the barrel is a demon sealed pistol.

Actually, he didn’t show his emotion when he received the gun, but he was still touched because he knew Ark’s personality better than anybody else. He knew that though Ark can take other’s things without a thought, he was a yellow, greedy user that wouldn’t give a penny to anyone. That Ark gave him a rare pistol. Not a normal pistol, but a rare pistol.

That's why even though there was an enmity between them, he had thought that Ark's gift was given out of consideration of the current business relationship between them, but that thought disappeared as soon as he fired the pistol.

Tang! Tang! Tang!

– Do you know? The bullet is my food! HooHooHoo! Then what is the thing that goes out the muzzle?

Every shot he makes is accompanied by a voice that rings in his head.

Demon sealed pistol was a gun that makes a racket every time a shot is fired. Not only that, the things that the pistol says are all....

– A shot fell!

– I am hungry! Hey, I am hungry! Don't you know that I can't shoot if I can't eat?

If ammo falls on the ground it makes this kind of comment.

– Due to many hours of repeated use, the muzzle got too hot!

-Hot! My body is hot! Woah! Woah!

If the muzzle gets too hot due to the continuous shots, his ears gets bombarded with annoying moans. Despite that, the performance of the pistol is top-grade. If it was other users, they might just submit to the annoyance and keep on using it. However, Rapid's gun slinging style is still not common, as compared to other's usage. All the acrobatic manipulations were intentionally done in order to bring out the highest efficiency out of the pistol experience.

Such pistol was a recipe for disaster in Rapid's hand. Even now, he felt like stopping everything to find Ark and throw the pistol at Ark's face, but he had applied some discipline to keep on using the pistol.

Because it was a good pistol? Not in a thousand years. He wanted to show Ark, which had given him this pistol as a reward for setting up an investment system, that he can even get a good use out of pistol such as this.

'But that is that and this is this.'

Actually, it wasn't that Rapid had let go of his resentment. The reason for him leaving a bogus direction was because of his resentment toward Ark. He wanted to give back as much as he had received from Ark. It was definitely about getting back at him. He wanted to throw him a screwball.

'After he tried to contact me, Kurakan said he had also received a call from Ark, but I have convinced him not to respond by telling him that we can solve this problem all by ourselves, as a means to prove ourselves to Ark. Well, there was a high chance that he

might have called Ferguson, A, and B, but they were stuck in the forest maze so it would not have made any difference. Therefore, knowing Ark, he would not just sit idly and wait for them. So if he went into the forest maze, he would have seen my message. Of course he would have gotten lost. He probably got angry!"

It was like music to his ears, but the true bliss would be to clear the zone before Ark gets here. He could ask Ark, "What? Why did you come when I was already getting ready to leave after taking care of things here?"

90% of Rapid's reason for coming to Nosferatu was so that he can rub it in Ark's face, and his plan was going smoothly.

He got together with the Silverhand, fought off the Stone Age dinosaurs, and he marched on! He was able to reach, what appeared to be the most important stronghold in the Jurassic World, yesterday. Of course, there were monsters even in the stronghold. Monsters, as compared to Stone Age monsters, were more strangely and marvelously changed dinosaurs. He didn't know why there were such beings over here, but, no matter what, charge!

Rapid was almost near the top, and

"Most likely this is the last part!" Rapid raised his head and psyched himself up.

What was in front of him was a 20 meter red meatball giant that was tall enough to almost touch the ceiling. This was the boss that

was giving Rapid and Silverhand the final test!

– Destruction level monster ‘Blood Golem’ has come!

Blood Golem!

There was no mistake in seeing him as a monster. Since he is a boss of this Jurassic World his combat capability must be enormous.

Booong! KahKang! KahKang! KahKang!

Whenever he swung his fist and rolled his feet, it felt like the whole stronghold was shaking, but Rapid and Silverhand was not pushovers.

Dark Eden, including Ellain and Kurakan were topnotch, and Silverhands were also stout veterans of warfare. Lastly, the person that was leading these two groups of fighters is a long time rival of Ark. Even though Clem had higher rank, because he had been rescued by Rapid, he gave the leadership responsibility to Rapid.

“Don’t give him time to rest!”

Tutututu! Tutututu!

“Don’t let him move naturally! Hand Grenade!”

PuPung! PuPung! PuPung!

Sound of the weapons and explosions echoed restlessly. There were some difficulties at the beginning, but a team made up of Rapid, Dark Eden, and Silverhand was progressing orderly without a hitch. No, victory was nearly guaranteed.

All that was left was to end the breath of this beat up blood golem!

It was at this time that Clem’s roar sounded.

“Rapid, 1st squad won’t be able to hold up anymore!”

“Ok, 1st squad retreat! Go to the back and treat yourselves. Then provide back support! Second squad will advance carefully! Don’t be hasty. The enemy is practically dead. Rather than offense, think defense!”

The strategy that Rapid had used was to divide into two teams and the two teams rotating back and forth while supporting each other. Because this setup allowed both offense and defense it was very effective, but because this strategy was used multiple times, it seemed like golem was able to see a pattern. While the two team were switching their roles, the golem shot through the opening and swung both of its hands and hit the floor.

Kuuoo! KahKahKahKang!

With an explosion, the floor started to wobble up and down. The teams that were in the process of switching their position swayed side to side.

Seeing the disorder, the golem gathered up the last remaining strength and charged toward the disorderly team members.

“He’s coming!”

“Hey, it’s dangerous! You can’t let it step on you or you’re dead! Retreat!”

“Crap, Slide!” Rapid ran out right after a brief breather. He had improved much while in the Galaxian, but before the Galaxian, Rapid’s real body problem caused some problem in the game.

Maybe because he spent too much time as a handicapped person, weakness in one of his legs got never corrected inside the game. Instead, Rapid thought, rather than spending the time and effort to fix the anomaly, he had decided to find the best means of moving, as it is. That decision was the initiator of him learning his skill called “Slide!”

– You have learned a new skill (Common Occupation ☆☆)

Slide (Mid Level, Passive): gunman’s most dangerous moment

is when he is on the move. No matter how fast the enemies are and no matter how superb the marksmanship, the accuracy of the shot will drop during movement. However, because of your endless desire to move in sliding manner, you have become proficient in it. This type of movement allows steadiness of the hand, and it also allows the user to progress through mud or snow or any other similar environments.

<<Your skill will limit the loss of accuracy and speed that result from movement to mere 30%. Also, in muddy or snowy area, loss of movement is also limited to only 50%.>>

This skill was similar to Ark's Mud Slide, but this skill was a bit more catered to a gunman. This was the reason why he was able to zip in and out through his teammates.

Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang!

Instantly, Rapid got near the blood golem and started to pump him up with some bullet. With every bullet that he fired, they all landed in exact same spot. 1st shot, 2nd shot, 3rd shot, 4th shot, 5th shot. They all went in right on top of each other!

Added effect of his skill and the proficiency of the weapon, in two seconds, he was able to put in 10 rounds of bullets in the same spot. Due to the added effect of the synergistic placement of the bullets, what started out as a small hole started to get enlarged.

However, considering the fact that the blood golem was a 20

meter tall monster, such hole was equivalent to having a pin-sized hole in its body. This kind of damage was not the kind of damage to stop the golem's movement, but.....

"Try this one as well!" Rapid pulled out a grenade and shoved it in the hole caused by the bullets.

PuPung! PuPuPuPung!

Right as Rapid used the Slide to move away from the grenade's damage range, innards of the golem burned off, and even some of the tissues on its legs got burned and fell off as it forced the golem to take a knee.

"It time! Attack!" Due to Rapid's performance, the battle, again, flowed in their direction.

- Crap! That is too much! What am I supposed to do if you fight in that manner? Put yourself in my shoes! If you fight like that, will I have any anus left? I can't even imagine it! It hurts! I feel like I have got hemorrhoids! You jerk! Be responsible! Be responsible for my anus!

".....What is this?"

It was when Rapid was reloading his weapon while listening to the disturbing noise. There was something unusual that was coming. The direction he was lead to look was outside, toward the window. Weird looking monster with long wingspan was flapping

its wings as it was heading over to where they were.

Rapid thought for a minute.

He thought that such creature can't possibly be friendly.

Then he thought some more.

If that anomaly was to join in, the victory that was right in front of his eyes might turn for the worst.

Then he had a final thought.

It would be better to shoot that anomaly down before it gets here.

“Clem! Caliban! Baler!” Rapid called on the snipers. Then he pointed to the anomaly that was flying closer and said, “Shoot that thing down before it gets any closer!”

“Leave it to us; shoot it!”

Toong! Toong! Toong!

With solemn shout 3 rifles started firing.

“Wh, What are they doing?” Screeching yell came out of Ark’s mouth. After long journey, they finally arrived at Nosferatu. All

that was left was less than 1 Km. Ark was heading toward, what he figured as, where Rapid and the crew were gathered. He was in the middle of worrying about how he will grill Rapid with heightened anticipation.

Toong! Toong! Toong! Ping! Ping! Ping!

But unknowingly bullets were flying in their direction. It wasn't because there was some kind of automatic defense system.

The bullets were flying out from the 9th floor in which the battle sparks were rampant. It was dark and, still, fairly long way from the building, and thus, can't tell the face features, but it should be still possible to see a human silhouette. If the silhouette can be seen, it shouldn't be difficult to tell who is flying toward them.

Most likely Rapid and the crew are together on that 9th floor. If said in another way, they are Ark's agents. That means the employees are shooting at the president that has come to find them.

"Aren't they crazy?" Ark was yelling his head off while rampaging on top of the hell hound.

"It has to be Rapid! Yeah, it has to be him! He knew that he would hear something from me if I got there before he finished the job, and thus, he tried to hit me before that happens! Well, I was going to nag a bit, but still! Damn it! It was not enough that he sent me on a wild goose chase at the forest so he is, now, shooting at me? I won't let this go unpunished!"

“Calm down Arknim.”

“Calm down? Does this call for calm? This is a revolt, a revolt!”

“Yes, you are right! That Rapid trash! His hostile feelings were apparent from a long time ago. Dangerous atmosphere was overflowing from his eyes, when looking at him! He has finally shown his true self!”

Ferguson was also spouting impure thoughts and was feeding Ark’s anger. Seeing the two clowns, Irina just shook her head in frustration.

“There is no way that is possible. Even if he had those kinds of thoughts, the ones that are shooting are your subordinates. They are not going to shoot you just because Rapid was ordering them.”

“Huh? Now that I think about it.....”

“Most likely they don’t know that it is you. Just like how we can’t see them very clearly, they can’t see us all that well either. Not only that, we are riding a hell hound. From this distance, they could only mistake it for a monster. Therefore, once the shooting stops, we must let them know that we are on the hell hound.”

“.....Ah!” An exclamation mark lit up on top of Ark’s head.

However, in the Jurassic World, because of something unknown, normal communication did not work. Actually, the reason for the communication problem was the mist that was covering the forest. Of course, the communication should be possible since the mist has been turned off, but since he hasn't even made an attempt, there was no way for Ark to know.

"He~y! It's m~e! Ar~k! Stop shooting!" He used all of his body strength to yell.

But! TuTuTuTu! PuPung! Kuuoooo! KaKaKaKang!

Clem, Caliban, and Baler. The atmosphere around the three was flooded with the battle sounds carried on by 30 combatants plus the blood golem. There was no way that the three would be able to hear Ark.

On the contrary, Ark's behavior had an opposite effect.

"Something is riding on top of the monster!"

"I saw it as well. By the way it is flapping its tail so fiercely, it must have a lot of fight in him. It must be one of the monsters that we failed to take care of on the way to here. Whatever the case may be, we are in the middle of battle with this blood golem. We have to quickly get rid of any distractions that may lead the battle in the direction that we don't want. We must shoot that monster down."

"But for some reason the silhouette seems somewhat familiar. As

if it looks like Ark hyungnim..."

"Don't joke around. There is no way Ark would be over here is there? No, even if he did come here, there is no way he would ride something hideous as that is there?"

"Most likely right?"

"Of course. Don't think about something strange. I have told you back when we were training you. Concentration is the basic requirement for a sniper. Shoot with the intent to kill with the first shot!"

"Yes, Clem Captain!"

Therefore, with heightened concentration.....

Tooong! Tooong! Tooong! Kung Kung Kung! KkaaKang!

– Summoned hell hound was shot in the head!

"Damn it! We are done for!"

In the midst of moaning dog, message popped in front of Ark. Luckily hell hound was summoned from a level 100 carcass. One shot wasn't enough to kill it. However, seeing the briskly dripping

blood from its head made the passengers feel uneasy.

‘If we keep at this, we would fall even before we get close!’

If they fall, now, they would fall straight into the burning lava! They would melt away without a trace.

“Don’t make me laugh! Hell hound, fly up!” Ark grabbed the mane with both hands and yelled.

As soon as he gave the order, hell hound opened his wings, wide, and shot up. Ark’s thought was to get above the line of fire and land on the roof. His plan was to do a perpendicular descent to the window, but Ark forgot to think about something.

– Alert: you are nearly out of mana!

<<If the mana runs out, the summoned hell hound will forcefully canceled>>

Battle with the pterosaur from section A, and flying 5 Km on a back of a hell hound was enough to bottom out till only thing that was left of mana was 20. That was good for only 10 seconds.

‘There was no way to stretch out the distance.’

“Hell hound descend!” Feeling the pressure, Ark, urgently changed direction.

Snipers didn’t fail to take advantage of that momentary opening.

It can only be thought of as useless concentration, but while the hell hound was changing direction, three bullets shot through the wings, ripping the wing tissues from both wings. What resulted was an immediate loss of equilibrium, and the hell hound started to descend like a rotating top.

“Woooooah!

A span of zero point some odd seconds was enough to switch the ceiling and the floor! However, Ark got a solid grab of the running away concentration. If he loses any amount of concentration, here, all of them will perish, and it was due to friendly fire. With 4 years of gaming history, there was no way he could leave such pathetic history!

“Hell hound, use more strength!” Ark yelled while he was pulling up on the mane with the momentum capable of uprooting the whole mane.

It wasn’t clear whether it was because of the pain or because of Ark’s yelling, but the hell hound started to flap his wings with piercing scream. However, with punctured wings, there was no way to reinstate the aerial equilibrium.

Nevertheless, due to the hell hound's superfluous effort, they were able to descend in a sloping path rather than the nose dive!

KaKaaang!

They crashed on top of the stronghold's spiral rooftop. For the moment, they were able to avoid having to bathe in the lava water, but they didn't have the luxury to breathe a sigh of relief.

Even as the hell hound made contact with the spiral roof top, Ark's mana had completely emptied out, and the gang landed heavily on the sloped rooftop where they immediately started to slip down the roof.

"Irinanim, grab onto my waist!" Ark jumped, quickly, and yelled while rolling toward Irina, and at the moment Irina grabbed onto his waist!

"Come out shovel!"

Falling into a state of total focus, Ark pierced the roof with the shovel, which slowed their descent, to an eventual stop. They were barely hanging on, as they dangled right above the river of lava.

"If the usage of shovel also required mana....'

Though he had recovered most of his vitality on the way to here, his mana was bottomed out due to the hell hound sucking it dry. However, fortunately shoveling was an active skill and it didn't

consume mana.

If the shoveling also required mana, then Ark and Irina would have dropped into the lava while hugging each other. Same was true with Ferguson, A, and B.

“A..Alive!”

Ferguson, A, and B were also dangling on the edge of the roof with a sigh of relief, but what came out of Ark’s mouth was far from the sigh of relief. What came out was teeth grinding noise!

‘Damn! Just wait and see! That Rapid jerk, whether this was done on purpose or as an accident, I will never let this go!’

“Arknim, it’s that way!” It was then that Irina, who’d been hanging onto his waist, pointed in one direction.

With close inspection, under a slightly distant spiral roof top, was a broken window.

Currently Rapid was in the 9th floor, and the broken window in question was that of a 10th floor. If said in another way, this was a floor that the Rapid and the gang still haven’t laid eyes upon. Do or die, there probably would be monsters to fight. They couldn’t afford to wait dangling around until Rapid pass by them. Therefore, Ark used the rail to move toward the window, and ordered the three stooges, “Yo, go ahead and go in.”

“Huh? W..We first?” Their facial expression shows uneasiness.

However, seeing the seething anger expressed in an intense sparkle – though it was expressed in thought of Rapid-they, instantly, shut their mouths.

They went through the window.

“Arknim, there aren’t any monsters here!”

“What? There are no monsters?”

There, still, was a battle going on down below. There was no way Rapid would be heading down instead of up. There was no way there couldn’t be any monsters up here. Whatever the case, it was good for Ark, and Irina’s weight was slowly becoming a factor in being able to keep on hanging on the rail.

Therefore, Ark also entered through the window.

‘What is the purpose of this place?’ Ark looked around with squinted eyes.

The interior was not as big as he thought. It was that of a 20 meter wide square room.

In the middle of the room was a round table with 10 chairs laying on top. Randomly placed chairs around the room were all empty,

except one had a completely dried up mummy sitting on it.

Mummy was looking at the big canvas picture on the wall with empty eye sockets. Following the direction of mummy's glare, Ark recognized something familiar.

'....that picture is?'

It was the same picture that he had seen in the section B research lab.

"Arknim, take a look at this! Underneath the mummy was this!"

Ferguson brought over a book with years of settled dust on top. When he opened the book, what he saw was a word written with small letters.

- I am Izarion.

It was written in the very first page. On the picture that he saw in research lab B was, 'For the leader of the great Alkan nation!' In other words, what Ferguson brought was a journal of Alkan's leader.

'We just might be able to solve the mystery of this Jurassic World.' Ark quickly turned the page.

- We Alkans, who had ruled over Istana for ages, were forced to put an end to our history due to the Murat's betrayal. Their reason was that we were oppressing other peace loving races. That was not even funny.

Doesn't that mean the Murats were attacking others in the name of peace?

However, I will not blame them. This world is for the strong. Weak being eaten by the strong is the natures providence. We Alkans were aware of this better than anyone else, and by following the nature's providence we put other races of Istana under the yoke of slavery. Now that a race stronger than ourselves came, I will not turn around and say that they were wrong. Otherwise, we would be no different from Murats who use force and yet speak of peace.

Of course that does not mean we will go to our ruin without a fight. If we were beaten because of our weakness, all we have to do is to become strong! We submitted to the humiliation and migrated to this Jurassic World for that reason. Though, can't be compared to the Murats, we also had the technology that enabled us to rule Istana for over thousands of years. Also, we have a secret that had been passed down since the ancient times. We will harness all of our resources in order to make a strong life form that will defeat Murats.

A being that will not lose to Murats; no, a being that has strength to annihilate the Murats!

It was when he read up to this point. A message opened up while he was turning the page.

- You have just found information about Murat civilization that was never made public.

In space's infinite history, there have been numerous civilizations that cycled back and forth between growth to decline and back. Whenever unpublicized information about an alien civilization is revealed, it serves the same role as contributing the knowledge of history of space itself. Also, it can have a significant impact in help recovering lost technology and/or artifacts.

<<You have discovered convoluted relationship between the Alkan race and the Murat race in Istana's Jurassic World. It seems like, in the past, when Murat race came to the Istana system, they started a war with the Alkan race, which was oppressing other race of aliens, and having lost the war, the Alkan race hid themselves in the Jurassic World to plot future revenge against the Murat race.>>

+ you have just found information on alien race Murat (6/15)

+ you have just earned 500 exploration point for finding information on the alien race Murat.

+ your intelligence was raised by 5 for finding information on the alien race Murat

Information relating to Murat found! Therefore, Ark was able to solve some mysteries regarding the Jurassic World.

Murats valued peaceful galaxy more than anything else. As such, in their eyes, Alkan race that was oppressing and enslaving other races was like an entity that went against the concept of peaceful galaxy.

They most likely tried bargaining that resulted in failure. Inevitably, war started, and Alkans were nearing annihilation. Therefore, in order to carry out revenge, they adapted their technology with ancient secrets in order to make strong life forms. That location was this Jurassic World.

Most likely, the dinosaurs in the Jurassic World were part of the test materials to make the ultimate life form.

‘Even the Murat that was in the research lab....’

There was even a record of the Murat man in the journal.

.....finally was able to get my hands on a live Murat.

Originally, one must know one’s enemy before one can defeat

one's enemy. From now on, I will completely dissect him and conduct research. Maybe that may lead to creating the ultimate life form. Until then, this miserable Murat will be kept in a stasis in between life and death. It will be a living hell for him. In truth, I am looking forward to it. With what kind of scream will he satisfy me....

What Ark saw while absorbing the Shire was this.

That Murat wasn't a subject to a torture. He was used for all kinds of bioresearch, and even in death, was made into a specimen.

'These bastards were stepped on by Murats. What kind of psycho gets an enjoyment out of torture?' Ark looked at the mummy as he kicked its face.

From this point on, his speed in flipping the journal pages steadily increased.

Afterwards, the main theme of the journal was that of various thought on how to carry on the aforementioned research, but that was not what Ark was interested in.

There was still one mystery that was not solved. 'Why did the Alkans disappear?'

During his trip to Nosferatu, only body that he had found was that of the Izarion.

Well, even though they have bypassed great portion of the Jurassic World in getting here, the fact that there weren't any Alkan remains in either one of the research labs were a mystery. Seeing the leader's mummy in this kind of place was also a mystery.

Of course, it wasn't because he was concerned for the Alkan race.

'I need to find out what happened to them in order to figure anything else out, isn't it?'

Even though they were stepped on by Murats, they were capable enough to have this kind of facility. Then they must have left something that was characteristic of this place. In order to find that something, he must know the condition for which Alkans disappeared.

Ark was able to find that condition in the last page.

.....finally, the ultimate synthetic serum was made. In certain state, metamorphosis was possible, and if unmorphed, they were capable of regeneration even after receiving fatal injury. It really was an ultimate synthetic compound.

But that synthetic serum would lead to the extinction of the Alkan race.....

The whole idea about wanting to make a stronger life form was a mistake in the first place. It was too late to turn back by the time I realized this fact. The ‘being’ that hid in ourselves caught and absorbed so many of our people and became an entity that we couldn’t control. Poison serum compounds that were made as a byproduct during the production of the ‘being’ were all utilized in our hope to contain the ‘being,’ but we couldn’t kill him. Also, due to his obstinate attacks, the remaining people all ended up meeting their bitter end.

Ultimately, I took the remaining serums and lead the very last of my people into the ultimate battle. It was fortunate that I didn’t completely connect up all the DNA strands of his genome as a precaution for what ifs. If all of the DNA strands were correctly connected, there may not be any solution to this problem.....

After many hours of arduous battle, we were able to drive the ‘being’ to the lower floor where the freezer storage was located, as coldness restricted his strength. However, for that to happen I had to sacrifice the remainder of my people.

Now what was left are serums that can be considered as dregs of the past and me alone....

Alkan’s history was that of a civilization that met its end due to its own creation. It truly was a miserable end. A knife that was sharpened to carry out a revenge ended up stabbing my own heart.

I’m....I’m.....

‘Ultimate synthetic serum was sealed in the lower floor?’ Ark awoken himself, right up.

A serum that annihilated the Alkan race! I can feel it. Without having to say it, the serum is the Jurassic World’s boss monster! Also, if it is on the lower floor, isn’t that the floor that Rapid and the gang are fighting right now? In other words, Rapid is fighting the boss monster right now!

“Damn it!” Ark was relieved that Rapid had not made it up to the highest floor, but instead, he was already fighting with the boss monster.

If Rapid was to kill the boss monster right now? The times he had spent on wandering through the forest maze, almost doing a nosedive into the lava because of the depleted mana, and almost having made into a swisscheese on the way to here....All of that would be nothing but some plain shoveling. (TL: I know this does not make much sense...shoveling, but you can take this as difference in cultural experience leading to different understanding)

Shoveling! Shoveling! Shoveling!

Of course it would be still okay if things ended as is. Ultimately, Rapid is still one of his workers, and thus it can be a good thing.

However, that is that and this is this!

Coming to the party after the main event had passed and saying, ‘What? The party’s over?’ That is a role for one of the “extras” isn’t it? Also, what am I supposed to tell Irina that has come all this way, just to say ‘hahaha, looks like it is over. We struggled for nothing. Let’s go?’

Not only that, after all the hardship we went through, we will get mere 0.001% of the reward, if that.

Though boss is about to hit the floor!

“Let’s go! Hurry up!” Ark whaled as he turned his head, and dragged Irina and Ferguson, A, B, who didn’t know what was going on, down the steps.

“Wait up! I am here!”

“What? Perhaps this voice is?”

People that were congregated in an area bigger than the one upstairs turned their heads. Just as he figured, it was the Rapid and the gang.

As for them, they looked at Ark’s face with a dumbfounded facial expression and yelled with excitement once they realized who it was.

“Hy, it’s Hyungnim! Hyungnim came!”

“Ooo! It’s Ark! Our youngest came!”

“Wait a minute? But why is Ark coming from the upper floor?”

“Ae? And the people with him are Irina and Ferguson, A, B isn’t it?”

All over their faces were happiness and questions. Therefore, all sorts of words flowed out, but Ark avoided all the welcoming parties, as he weaved in and out through the crowd to grab onto Rapid’s collar.

“You! You jerk Rapid!”

“You came? You were a bit late. I even left you a message telling you how to get here.”

“Message? Did you say message? You jerk. Just because you have a hole in your mouth do you think you can say anything you want? Do you know what kind of hardship I have went through because of you? Also, just a few minutes ago, you ordered them to shoot me didn’t you? Don’t try to make excuses! I know it all! Because of you I nearly died!”

“Gunshots? I don’t know what you are talking about.” Rapid looked at Ark with scrunched up facial expression. Then after looking at Ark for a while, his facial expression turn to that of

disgust. “Well, since you said you had a hard time, I am thankful. It was just as I had hoped, but now that I am looking at it in this manner, I do feel sorry a bit. I don’t know why you are coming down from the top floor, but I feel bad that after having gone through all that hardship there is nothing for you to do.”

“.....all done?” Ark looked all around him, and it was just as Rapid had said. In front of the group was a mound of meat piles. Also, on the left side was a thick and enormous steel door that was wide open. It was probably the freezer storage that the Izarion spoke of. Also the big chunk of meat sitting in front of the group was ultimate – now it is nowhere near ultimate but – serum’s corps!

‘All the struggles that I have went through.....’

“Yo, Ark, that type of saying is enough. Let’s hear your story now. Exactly what happened? You had other busy mission so you couldn’t come over here? How did you end up on the floor that even we haven’t been? What’s up there? Say something. I am about to go crazy.” At this point, Clem came over with the rifle that he shot Ark with, on his shoulder. It was time for Ark to give his explanation.

‘What? Who is that?’ Ark’s eyes became round. Because he was too busy chasing after Rapid so he was not able to see a familiar face. Though he had spent a great deal of time with the Silverhand crew while he was in Nephelim, but he couldn’t recall the face.

He had thought, maybe, he was a new member, but he seemed too young.

No more than 10 years old?

What is this kid doing in this kind of place?

“Clem Captain, who is that kid?”

“Oh? Ah, this kid?” Clem turn to look at the kid.

“I don’t really know still. When we opened the freezer chamber after killing the boss monster, this kid was in what appeared to be in suspended animation state. Luckily, there was nothing wrong with his vitals, but we don’t know whether he received any trauma or not, as he does not remember anything. So we decided to take him to the doctor after we finish exploring this place. If this kid regains his memory, he could perhaps tell us more about this world.”

“He was sleeping in the freezer chamber?” Ark looked at the kid with dummified eyes.

Instantly, Ark recalled what was written in the Izarion’s journal.

-In certain state, morphing was capable, but not only that.....was hiding inside ‘us’ and had killed so many people....was sealed in lower floor freezer chamber.

‘We’ were irregularly contained!

When he was reading the journal, he was thinking that they were attacked in a simple manner, but in front of that ‘in other states morphing is capable’ was said.

Then maybe....

Art lifted his head real quick and yelled!

“All of you, get away from him!”

“Wh, Why are you saying that?”

“You! Who are you?” Ark looked at the kid while chewing on what others had to say.

With that, the kid’s lips started to tear and morph at the same time. Seeing the change, everyone retreated with shocked faces.

“Hmmpf! How annoying!” Kid looked at Ark while his face took on a form similar to that of a flour dough.

“I haven’t eaten for many hundreds of years, but I was patient. I was going to follow you because I can, then, eat so many of you insects, but it seems like you know who I am. I won’t ask you how you found out about me. All I have to do is suck on your brain and I

will get my answer. As of now, your destiny has been sealed. Those of you that woke me up after many hundreds of years, as a thanks, I was gonna give you some breathers, but because of that guy you all will have to die. However, you don't have to blame him. In truth, my patience.....”

Kid's voice kept on getting dull and slow. At the same time, facial cracks that kept on spreading throughout his face was also getting bigger. When his whole face was covered in cracks, now morphed skin started to fall off as black aura like thing popped out of the body and it turned into a mucus-like substance.

-.....Because I can't stall my appetite!

– Eraser level monster serum Damian appeared!

Red message popped up accompanied by eerie voice.

Space 8: Damian

“What, what is this?”

“That kid’s identity.....!”

“Good God! What do we call that thing?”

The team members, all, had a ‘o □ o’ this kind of face as they expressed bafflement.

In its middle, ‘that’ was it.

The ‘it’ had an appearance of liquid, but at the same time it had liquidy tissue, as well as, the innards that looked like hardened jelly. All in all, it was a big chunk of serum jelly. Its face, which looked like bits and parts of unknown beasts that mix-matched into one, had dark-red light that pulsated while the surface muscles wiggled like worms. It really gave everyone a strange and unpleasant stimulation.

While everyone utterly stunned due to the scare, after looking at the monstrosity, “Commence Fire!” Very first one to shout was Clem.

Consequently, Silverhand members woke up, real quick like, and took out their weapons.

Behind Clem, who was pulling out 25mm, large diameter rifle, was Pedro lead, attack squad armed with the machine guns. Hex's team of scavengers was readying electromagnetic minds and C-6 explosives!

ToongTooong! Tututututu! Pung! Kageegee!

Flames, thunder and lightning caused a vortex to spread everywhere! It looked as if the entire area disappeared through the thick black smoke.

This was the Silverhand! This was the strength of the team that traveled around the Istana system for 10s of years collecting experiences. However....

-Kekekekeke. You guys are funny. With a low snicker, smoke started to spread outward.

Within the clearing was the ever permeating shine of the chunk of slime. As if the focused attack from the Silverhand was a figment of imagination, there was no visible damage seen anywhere on that monster.

This is it! This is the ultimate serum that Alkan race produced thinking about delivering revenge to the Murat race.

-Humanoid weapons do not change even after many hundreds of years. No, actually, compared to in the past, there was a bit more warmth, suggesting a slight improvement? However, it is useless.

No matter how much sheep was to evolve, it can't possibly become a wolf. Prey will always remain prey, no matter the effort. For it to be eaten by a predator is the providence of the universe. I am a being that was born to sit at the highest predator's seat. Insignificant preys, present yourselves as my meal! Red light emitted from Damian.

Then, all of a sudden, guard members, Silverhands, and attack team's NPCs all moved in concert with dim facial expression toward Damian like zombies. No, NPC's weren't the only one. Kurakan, Ferguson, A, and B also!

Then the message popped up!

-Damian used 'Predator's Seduction' skill.

<<Characters with Wisdom, Intelligence, and Luck totaling less than 350 will lose their right to their 'self' and will be under a mind control>>

Predator's Seduction!

If wisdom, luck, and intelligence must be higher than 350 in order to not be under the influence, then NPC and some users will definitely be under mind control. That means, if a soldier is under specifically defined level, it won't matter how many soldiers there are, they all will fall under the mind control!

This was really a cheating skill, but.....

“Force Explosion!”

Pupupupung! Pupupupung! Pupuupung! Following a booming voice, an explosive, and yet, ill-defined light force spread out like chain reaction.

Once under the influence of that light force, the mind controlled members regained control of their minds and hastily retreated. Force explosion was a skill that utilized collision of two properties of forces to burn away the influence of the dark power.

“What do you think, you chunk of gelatin? Thing won’t go the way you want!” Ark looked on in the middle of the spreading light with a provocative smile. This was the power of Murat’s lineage that was passed on to Ark, the Elim! Thanks to him, everyone was able to avoid sacrificing themselves to be Damian’s food, but....

“It’s you again?” Ark just became Damian’s target.

-Also, this power is that of a Murat. Murat! The race that forced Alkan race to an extinction! Yes, are you that Murat? Well, Alkan race’s revenge has nothing to do with me, but even though they were inferior race, I can’t deny that they were my creators. It is not a bad idea to grant their revenge as a gesture of thanks. Be happy, you alone will be chewed and digested well,” said Damian with growling voice!

All of a sudden, Damian's body elongated straight toward Ark.

Kewaaah!

From Damian, a big chunk of slime, 3-4 separate chunks fell out and changed into different shaped monsters. The resulting shape was that of a T-rex!

The three chunks changed into 3 dark red T-rex and ran toward Ark with their mouths opened wide.

'Hmmpf! Just T-rex!'

Though he was surprised at the unimaginable event, T-rex was something that he had killed plenty of while in the forest of maze. 3 or 4 of them weren't enough to scare him.

Yes, there weren't any reason to be afraid, but!

KahKang!KahKang!KaKang!

"Woah! Hick! Ohohoh? Woaht?" Ark ran, jumped, rolled while he screamed.

Rapid, who was looking on with a obtuse eyes, yelled at Ark in irritation.

“What are you doing you dummy?”

“Crap! Do you think I am doing this because I want to? Hick! Ooodadada! This is all your fault! Because of you, I used up all of my mana force, and running away is all I can do right now! Hey you jerk! What are you doing, just looking around for? If you have time to say that, do something!”

“.....What?”

“I can’t use my skills you jerk!” Ark yelled back to Rapid while running away from T-rex.

This was Ark’s biggest problem. Due to, having ridden the hell hound for 5 Km, he had practically emptied out his mana. What little force that was recovered while reading Izarion’s journal had been spent to drive away the darkness from Damian with Force Explosion. Not only that, because he used battle suit to fight pterosaurs he couldn’t even use his armor at the moment.

Of course even without a utilization of a skill, he still had sword skills, but it was impossible to take on 3 T-rexes with just sword skill. With that said, what else could he do but run?

“That’s right! Right now, Arknim is, now,without an armor!” Now that she remembered Ark’s situation, Irina rapidly raised her head and yelled.

At the same time, from her backpack, her battle suit came out

and enveloped her!

‘.....This is my chance!’ A sparkle from her eyes shot through her helmet.

Throughout the all of their travel, she constantly received his help. Of course that was not a bad thing, but she wanted to be of help to Ark. And now! She was given the opportunity to save Ark for a change!

So it was while she was earnestly charging.

“Arknim! Ha-yat! Phantom Dance!” A humanoid shadow shot through the space like a dark light.

(TL: for the readers, this used to be “welcome alter ego.” Due to there being so many different meanings to Korean words, which have its origin from Chinese, it would be very difficult for someone using machine translation to correctly name this skill. In this case, the skill talks of a chaotic shadow-like dance)

Following the yell, the humanoid shadow split into 5 and they all smothered the T-rex that was attacking Ark. The result was a T-rex being cut into pieces and the pieces into smog of blood.

“Extinction!” 5 shadows merged into one and crescent shaped sword was unsheathed, and as T-rex, which was being attacked from all sides, retreated with a wobble, human shadow returned next to Ark’s side as a normal human portrait.

The identity of the humanoid shadow was Ellain! It was Ark's faithful follower, Kusan race's greatest warrior.

Ellain's performance was the result of hours of training under the waterfall. And thus,....

'Hooek! I even lost to the NPC!' Nobody knew what was going on inside Irina right now.

Though Ark became Damian's target, he wasn't just attacking Ark. With the beginning of the first few chunks that flew out of Damian, more chunks continuously came out and morphed into various forms of dinosaurs, such as T-rex, Triceratop, Pterosaur, and Dilophosaurus as well! Every form of dinosaurs that were present in the Jurassic World started to attack everyone. The final count was 40 dinosaurs!

"What is happening here.....?"

"That guy is the Serum, a product of the race that used to live here." Ark looked at hurried Rapid and yelled at him.

"I can't explain in detail, but all of the dinosaurs in Jurassic World were just ingredients that were used to produce that monstrosity, and Damian is, a serum that combined all of the strong traits of these dinosaurs. Not only that, he has the means of morphing into whatever he likes. Therefore, he can use his own body to produce the dinosaurs. Don't let your guard down. This guy is the strongest monster that was made by the race that used to live here."

“Do you have time to be telling me not to let my guard down?”
Rapid looked at Ark unbelievably.

“Someone that had wasted away all of his power, and thus, ended up being chased away by just a few T-rex has the gall to tell me not to let my guard down? Are you somebody, now that you are able to relay this apparent situation?”

“What, you jerk? Whose fault do you think that was?”

“What do you mean whose fault? Did you waste away my power or yours?”

“Ha! Look at this jerk!? I have been quiet because we didn’t have time for argument, but it don’t look good if you come out like this. First of all, the message that you left on that rock!”

Rapid suddenly laughed. “So you saw it!”

“Yeah, I saw it, you jerk! Do you know how long I was lost because of that rock? Not only that, I know that you ordered that sniper attack from earlier! What? You don’t know what I was talking about? No, yeah, fine. Let’s talk about that later. Whatever the case, I am the president. Just because I ran out of my mana, you think you can slightly look down on me.”

“Slightly? You are playing around, you useless scum!”

“This jerk! Listen to the end! I am the president! The president. Just because of that fact, I am more useful than normal agents! You understand?”

What Ark said was the truth.

It was needless to say the least, but in Galaxian, there is this thing called Agent Skill. Every time the level of the Agent is raised, the skill learned can be used to benefit the growth of the employees that work under the agent. Also, everyone here, excluding Silverhand, are beings that are benefiting from Ark’s Agent’s skill. That skill is Business Ownership!

-Currently being used Business Ownership-II(Private NPC) effectiveness

Milan (Treasure Hunter): party’s chance to discover hidden clues increased by 25%

Hagel (Scavenger): 18% increased chance for monster to drop items

Ellain (Speed Swordsman): party’s attack speed is increased by 8%

Bellot (Power Damage Dealer): party’s attack power increased by 8%

Caliban (Sniper): party's accuracy increased by 15%

Kupa (Rifleman): Party's long distance effectiveness increased by 8%

Hadro (Rifleman): Party's long distance effectiveness increased by 8%.....

This was the updated effect of the upgraded Ark's skill!

But that was not all.

After he had solved Ikyullos problem and returned to Tatooin, Ark had accumulated enough adventure points to be used for another advancement. While he was at the Federation HQ, he had already applied for the advancement, and the advancement was for level 4!

The registration fee was 1500 adventure points and 1500 gold. It was not a small sum, but it was worth the cost.

Because of the increased level to level 4, total employees allowed was increased from 45 to 60. Also, Dark Eden was promoted to the next level of operation called Company.

Because of the promotion, business capability has expanded, but that could wait until next opportune time, and what's more important, now, is that he can learn even more powerful Company

level skill as compared to Agent level skill.

And the company level skill that had cost Ark another 1000 adventure point was.....

“President’s Majesty!”

-<President’s Majesty> has been initiated!

Company is an entity made up of president down to the plain employees from top to bottom. Therefore, the plain employees have no choice but to have good perception of president’s desire of them.

You would be fired if you do something outside of what’s expected

If you get fired, it is hard to eat and sleep

Therefore, there is no doubt that the office atmosphere changes from the time that the president is present versus when is not. If you want your employees to work properly, watch them carefully. Their work ethic will change. This is the President’s Majesty! President do not have to do anything to raise employee’s skill. But, if used too often, the employees will get stressed out and bad outcome may ensue. You will have to remember this fact.

<<Employee's skill increased by 20% for 30 minutes>>

#Only capable of using once per day

This is it!

“President is looking at us!”

“If we don't show result then we will be fired!”

“Move without resting! For the company! For the president!”

Tututututu! Tututututu! PuPung! PuPung!

As Ark looked at them with the sparkle in his eyes, the employees' movement changed dramatically!

Just as the word said, it was President' Majesty.

That was not all. Because Ark had earned many hundreds of military power from Muratio Star, skill called 'Command' had developed. Also, due to the performance while at Ikyullos with Marquis Martin, this skill had increased to level 50!

-Currently Command is being utilized

Command is a skill developed in those that have experience in taking command of the military unit. Therefore, if a party or a squad is lead by a leader with command skill, even without special skill, the leader is capable of boosting group's moral to the point of them performing beyond their skill.

<<Ark's Command 50: chances of committing to the command +10%,

Injury healing speed +10%>>

Such effectiveness!

If he was with the Dark Eden, his presence alone is considered as a buff! This was the result of the adventure point and the gold that he worked so hard to earn. This was the bonus given to the president that was managing the company.

Just having this kind of bonus was enough to want to brag about being a president!

“Huhuhu! Now what? You jerk, take a look and see. Your skill increased as well right? No matter how much you pretend you are better than me, your skill up was result of being under me, because you are nothing but my underling!”

“Damn!” Rapid couldn't deny the fact. As compared to when he

was leading the Dark Eden versus, now, when Ark was leading them, the difference in their attitude was so different. Their skill had increased due to Ark's skill, but even their loyalty was way different.

“Enemy number is great! Attack them one point at a time and kill them for sure!”

“Roger! Front T-rex, one point attack!”

“One point attack!”

Tutututu! Tutututu!

The employees started to yell status reports to each other as they swept the dinosaurs to a corner like a raging billows! They didn't need any kind of detailed orders. All they needed was general guideline given to them by Ark, and they would increase their effectiveness to 120% to carry out the battle. This type of attacking mentality became a spark that lit the fire in the Silverhand unit as well.

“Ark's subordinates are mostly guys that have received our training. We can't be performing any less than them! Use even the strength used to suck your mother's tit to fight!”

Toong!Toong!Toong!Pupung!Pupung!

Bafflement caused by Damian's appearance was just about a

moment.

Dark Eden and Silverhand employees established a formation and started to push back the dinosaurs that were about to overrun them. On top of that were Irina, Ferguson, A, and B, performing to their highest level. Irina wanted to be of help to Ark; Ferguson and his underlings didn't want to go back to the dungeon. Therefore, they synched with the employees and continued on with the battle.

The dinosaurs started to fall left and right.

“That’s it! We can do it!”

“Let’s round them up together and let’s even get the original!”

It was when they started to yell in this manner.

-.....round them up? Original? Damian, who was being silent, responded with pulsating voice.

-You are making me laugh. You are not thinking that you are fighting with me right now do you?

“Th, thinking?”

-I have been sealed for hundreds of years. What do you think was the most difficult for me? Hunger? Not a chance. It was the solitude. But it is not the type of solitude that you are thinking

about. The solitude that I felt was that of not having any prey. Not as food, but as toy. So that I can have fun, but what I enjoy the most is your emotion. Even, as perfect as I am, I do not feel such emotion.

It was then.

The 20 dinosaurs that were fallen as a result of 10 minutes of combat. Corps of the dinosaurs that had turned into dark red slime started to co-mingle together and started to rise up. Then, with a spurt, they shot up to reform into a body of the original dinosaur.

It was not just the shape. The vitality was back to the original as well! All that work they had done 20 minutes after receiving the buff was a wasted effort.

“No, No way!” The employee’s confidence took a direct hit.

Seeing their reaction, Damian, who was seating behind the dinosaurs, laughed.

-Kehahahaha! That’s it! That is exactly what I am not capable of feeling, no after having born as the ultimate being, I can’t even comprehend that! Horror! Despair! It was this that I wanted to see! It is your expression that tells me just how ultimate of a being I am! I like it! As a reward for making me this happy, I will tell you one more thing!

“It’s not needed!” It was then that Rapid ran. Then, he twirled

his gun like a top and in an instant shot 10 bullets toward the triceratop. Surprising event unfolded at that moment.

As soon as the bullets went into the body of the dinosaur, it split from top to bottom, down the middle and changed into two dinosaurs. With the initial split, the other dinosaurs started to divide into two as well.

The resultant total is 80!

Though 9th floor was very wide, when there were 80 dinosaurs taking up the space, there was hardly any room left. Since the situation turned out like this, even Rapid lost the momentum and started to backtrack.

What followed was Damian's laugh.

-Kekekeke! That's why you should have listened when I was telling you earlier. Now do you understand? Your weapons do nothing to my body. Sheep's teeth can't possibly penetrate wolf's mane. That is the difference between you guys, the prey, and me, the predator! Imperishable! And the strongest! That is me, strongest serum Damian!

“Ultimate Serum....” Ark mumbled with collapsed expression. Then he remembered Izarion's journal entry.

Ultimate Serum!

I gave the name Damian. No weapon works on him. It is because his recovery rate is faster than the damage rate. Even with that ability alone, Damian is the ultimate. Even if all of Murat come, they won't be able to kill him..Hahahaha!

Even the owner of the laugh died here. After having made the Jurassic World and having controlled so many different serums, in the end they were killed by Damian. In other words, it was a proof of Damian's strength, that he had the capability to extinguish a whole race. As the name said, "Eraser." Invincible exterminator.

However, the reason Ark recalled Izarion's journal was not to verify Damian's invincibility and to find a counter measure.

'Invincible? Don't make me laugh!' This is a world inside of a game. In such world, there is no such a thing as invincible being. If such thing is possible, there is no point in having user's level increase and to equip with ever improving equipment.

Unless the game producer was a wacko, he would not have made such character inside of a game. Damian is claiming that Alkan race had created him to be an invincible being, but the game producers would not allow such being.

'If it looks to be invincible, that only means that we have not found the means of killing him yet.'

Ark recalled Izarion's journal was for this reason. If there is a weak point to Damian, the answer is in the journal.

It was then.

‘Hold on? Maybe....?’

“Special Shells! Rapid, Clem, how many Special shells do we have?”

“Damn! What do you mean any left? Have you ever bought one before?”

As Dark Eden’s representative, Rapid responded with attitude. Of course, Ark had never bought special shell like items for normal weapons in the past.

Only time they had used them were when they happened upon them while they were acquiring them as a harvest. Also, such items would not be available in a world where dinosaurs existed.

“We have been stuck in this world for over a week. There is no way we would have any of that available, now, is there? In truth, even normal shells are nearly gone.” This was Silverhand’s leader, Clem’s response.

Though Ark just got here today, it had been over 5 days for Rapid’s group, and Silverhand had been here over 9 days. Even if they had it originally, those would have been used up.

Therefore, the number of special shells to be used in this battle....’o!’

‘Then what we can do is.....yeah, that is all we can do. I don’t know if that is possible, but. No whether it works or not, we have to try that. If that don’t work, we have no answer but extermination!’

“Hex, Hagel, follow me!” Ark quickly raised his head as he ran off.

While the combatants were in despair, only Ark moved, therefore the dinosaurs moved in. Actually, even if they didn’t move, there were already 10 dinosaurs in the direction that Ark was headed, but Ark kept on going without any hesitation.

‘There is only one chance! Before he realize it, we must penetrate!’

“Kafre Sword Skill number 3, Galaxy sword!” It was Murat Elim’s Divine writing, Galaxy Sword!

Now that he was using the force that he had scrapped the bottom of his mana well that had been collecting mana during 20 minutes of fighting, sword’s light opened up like a fan and swept the dinosaurs. However, that wouldn’t be enough to penetrate the wall made by the dinosaurs.

Incited with rage, the dinosaurs ran toward Ark with roar!

However, Ark was not alone.

“I will help! Phantom Dance!”

“I am also here! Burning Soul God! Speed Sword!”

Two glares that were streaking on either side of Ark were Ellain and battle suit wearing Irina!

“Uh? Uh? Uh? We are here too! A and B, let’s go! Combine! Oooooo!” In the back, Ferguson, A, and B combined into an armor tank with a revolver launcher on top.

Seeing the movement, Rapid followed after mumbling, ‘That guy, he’s got something planned,’ and still under the effect of President’s Majesty, Dark Eden employees also followed. Being left to themselves, Clem and the Silverhand also took up the rear.

“Good! At least we can only die once...can it be worse?”

What resulted was a trail of line of men with Ark leading the way. However, the wall made by 80 dinosaurs was thicker than one can imagine.

After firing in one area to kill off 2-3 dinosaurs, as soon as they died off, they recovered to block their way again.

‘Crap! If I had only figured it out sooner....’ Ark bit his lips after seeing the fallen dinosaurs getting back up again.

If he was to think again, the only and the last chance of getting through was when Damian first revealed himself when there were only 40 dinosaurs. However, Ark didn't know any better regarding Damian's ability.

No matter how much effort was made to use concentrated attack on one area, the rate of recovery was quicker than the rate of fall. However, Ark still had one last scheme.

“Ferguson! A! B!”

“Yes!”

“Aggro them and pull them away!”

“Yes! Y? Yes?” The three responded with motivation, but soon their eyes turned wide-eyed.

The last attempt was to use the three as a distraction. It was a bit late to mention the flaws of their group, but in reality, Dark Eden and the Silverhand were not very balanced in terms of offense.

A well balanced team must have 5 member to a team where there is 1 tanker, 2 dealers, 1 substitute, and 1 healer, but Dark Eden and the Silverhand had mainly dealers. So what were missing were tanker and healer.

Even then, up to now, they had some luxury, and therefore, strong attackers Rapid and Ellain were able to take on the tanker role, but in desperate situation, such as this, there was a margin of deficiency.

No matter how much firepower they had access to, there were no way to dodge the attack because they didn't have tanker's very important skill, which was provocation.

It was a skill used in gaining monster's attention toward itself and thus lead the monster in specified direction. It was tanker's core skill.

The reason Ark marked Ferguson, A, and B were for this reason. Of course they weren't tankers either, and if looking at their equipment, it could be seen that they are more on the heavy dealer's side than anything else.

But Ark knew that Ferguson, A, and B earned the title of bodyguards while blocking pouring attacks with their body while they were in Muratio Star! And bodyguards were profession that included taunting as one of the skills!

Ferguson, A, and B, against their best wishes, ended up with tanker's trait in their skill tree.

But! But! But!

“Wa, Wait a minute! How can we use taunting in this situation?

We can't even take on 1 of them! Of, of course, if it was for Arknim, we were ready to throw away our lives! However, how are we going to provoke and lead all of them away?"

"Damn it! Something like that, you guys think of a way!"

"Th, think of a way...."

"If I say do it, then do it! If you can't do it you are going back to the dungeon!" Due to Ark's wail, faces of Ferguson, A, and B turned black and died.

Unfathomable stubbornness! But the three knew. Ark is someone that will do what he said. Especially if it was something related to hazing people, what he said was good as done.

Then they remembered just how bad it was for them to keep on digging in that dark and gloomy dungeon without any light. Sleep and shoveling, eat and shoveling, fight and shoveling, sleep again and shoveling, eat and shoveling, shoveling, shoveling, shoveling....If they don't accomplish anything, they would probably end up inside of that dungeon again.

"Ehooook! No! No! No! No!" Ferguson yelled like a crazy person and started taunting. There was an effect. 4 T-rexes started chasing after Ferguson, A, and B. However, just that wasn't enough.

If the gang were to penetrate through the wall, they had to go

through 20-30 of them, but taunting is a skill that is designed to focus enemy's attention on them. Rather than taunting, Ferguson, A, and B instantly came at a death's door when the 4 T-rex rushed toward them.

"No, No! I can't die like this. I can't go back to the dungeon! Please! Please! Please! Please, come to me you damned dinosaur bastards!

At that time!

-You have learned new skill (Common Occupation ☆☆)

Wide area absolute taunting (User, Active) : Taunting is skill that protects your teammates at a cost of your life, and if done with that thought, there are no enemies that can reject your taunt. No, in reality, all of the monsters would want to kill you, but the fact that you have the body guard skill, simply, you are able to take on all of your enemy's beating at one time as a skill. It is not an event to be celebrated, but please take care of your body.

<<You are able to taunt all enemies in 100 meter range, and for 30 seconds your taunting will continue no matter what>>

"Wi, Wide area Taunting!" A miracle happened, and

Kewahhhh! Kewahhhh! Kewahhhh!

Ferguson focused charge by the dinosaurs! They didn't have time to do anything. It was instant dinosaur mob that pummeled the three into the ground and they turned into three corps, but.....

“.....Oooo! My brothers, we are, now, free!”

“.....Hyungnim, I am happy.”

There were pleasant smile in their faces.

“.....It's done!”

And in Arks's face was also a smiling face.

Ferguson's wide area taunt was miracles that lead the three straight into death, and it lasted only about a few seconds. Less than the time it takes to blink an eye was all there was, but that was more than enough.

“Time is now! All personnel charge!”

Ark ran straight through the empty space. He was able to penetrate a wall made by few tens of dinosaurs, but the gangs that were following ark each had ‘?’ on their heads.

What was beyond the wall of dinosaur was just another wall nearby.

“What is this? Why did you charge through here?”

“I don’t have the time to explain. Rapid, you take the employees and make sure the dinosaurs can’t approach here. If I am right, from now on, Damian’s attack will be much stronger. Hagel! Hex!”

Ark took Hagel and Hex to a machine panel with bunch of pipes and stuff were bunched up everywhere, and after having explained the mission, Hex rolled up his sleeves.

“I don’t know why this is needed, but situation does not call for questioning. Ok. It won’t take long to do this. 3 minutes, no, 2 minutes...wait two minutes. Hagel, help me.”

“Yes, teacher.”

Tututututut! Tututututut! PuPung!

As usual, there were no time to rest, as the battle continued.

Just as Ark had said, Damian’s attack became a bit more tenacious. Up to now, all the attacks were left up the dinosaurs, but when he saw where they were, he also joined in with tentacles. Of course, the situation became even more desperate.

-You guys will never leave here alive!

“Huk! Eahhhhhh!”

Very first casualty that occurred was from Silverhand crew.

It wasn't the attackers, but the scavengers started to sway by the attack wave and kept on dying one by one. Then next in line were Silverhand's attackers, and behind them were Bellot and Alf got grabbed by the tentacles and died.

The enemy was something that recovered instantly. The longer the battle lasts, casualty will only get bigger, and it can't be avoided. In that fashion, the manpower slowly dwindled and the situation kept on getting worse and worse. And finally, the dinosaurs destroyed the defense barrier and was about to penetrate the formation!

Puwahhhh!

It was then that the surprising event occurred. Dinosaurs that were rushing in with flaring nostrils were instantly frozen solid into white ice.

“It is now! Fire!”

The employees were a bit jarred by the voice, but they soon started to attack. Just then, a dinosaur that had more than 80% vitality exploded into bits and pieces as tumbled down. That

wasn't all. Up to now, they quickly recovered, but once encased in white ice, they turned into slime and disappeared.

"Wh, what is happening?"

"This is Damian's weakness." Ark turned to Rapid and showed his teeth of victory.

In Ark's hand was a, what appeared to be, a fire extinguisher. A white substance that had covered the dinosaurs was this machine! The reason why Ark ran to this area was for this.

This machine is.....Liquid Nitrogen Tank

Item type:???

This machine was taken from the ice chamber. Nitrogen was compressed tightly inside of a chamber, and if accessed via an injector, which aids in spreading of the liquid nitrogen around the intended area. In such instances, temperature will drop to minus 200 degrees. However do not think about using this like an AC. If you touch it, then you die!

The area Ark is in is the cold chamber that had sealed Damian, and the object that looked like a fire extinguisher was a liquid nitrogen tank that Hex and Hagel took from the ice chamber.

This was Damian's weakness that Ark remembered.

‘.....Freezing!’

Damian was definitely the ultimate serum, to the point of the makers of Damian being extincted. However, inside the Izarion's journal was a note that said Damian was sealed inside of an ice chamber. If said another way, he was not able to function in such low temperature. Therefore, if he gets frozen, Damian's strength gets sealed.

The reason Ark asked around for the special shell was for this reason, hoping there were still some ice type shells left, to make things a bit easier. However, without the specialized shell, he, then, thought of the ice chamber's ice machine instead. The end result was dinosaurs that melted away like water!

“What do you think Damian? Isn’t it cool?”

-You, my blood animals, Go!

Left with no alternative, Damian ordered the remaining dinosaurs to attack the group, but...

PuWhaaa!Puwhaaa!

As soon as liquid nitrogen was spread on them, instant ice!

“Oooo, It’s done! We have a means of killing them off! Attack! Attack!”

With this, the situation turned 180.

Ark ran around with the liquid nitrogen tank and as soon as he spread the liquid, the dinosaurs couldn’t even do anything and instantly froze, and consequently, fired upon and exploded into pieces. Then, ignoring everyone else, Damian sent many tentacles in Ark’s direction.

Without having any more mana, there was no way for Ark to avoid all those tentacles.

-Kekekeke! I got you!

Damian yelled as he wrapped Ark with his tentacles. However, Ark had a very relaxed facial expression as he said, “Uh, what do we do? Nitrogen tank is not on me?”

-What?

“Right here you dummy!”

PuWhaaa!Puwhaaa!

At that time, from the bottom, with Rapid’s voice, white smoke arose toward the tentacles.

Before he was wrapped by the tentacle, Ark had passed off the tank to Rapid, and Rapid fired the nitrogen toward the tentacles instantly!

Stiffly frozen tentacles were immediately fired upon by the employees and it crumbled, and thanks to that, Ark landed solidly on the floor.

“If the original body gets frozen, you can’t regenerate huh? Isn’t this what’s called low temperature pasteurization? It’s not like you are a parasite or anything.” Ark was looking down at the melting tentacles.

-Shut up! Insignificant prey!

This time, Damian turned toward Rapid and spread his tentacles, but nitrogen tank was already no in Rapid’s hands. The one that was holding onto the tank was Ark!

In this manner, Ark and Rapid was a match made in heaven.

From that point on, Ark ran around dodging and passing nitrogen tanks as they avoided countless tentacles.

PuWhaaa!Puwhaaa!

With every spray, tentacles froze solid.

And because of Ark and Rapid, the employees whom were being ignored by Damian had all the time in the world to fire on the frozen tentacles. This was no longer a battle. This was a one-sided destruction. Soon, with passage of time, the number of tentacles dwindled and soon, it completely stopped.

It was obvious conclusion. All the dinosaurs, as well as all of the tentacles were all originated from Damian's body. Also, once gigantic Damian, slowly dwindled down to less than 1 meter tall.

"Now, what do we do now?" Ark smiled really big as he approached Damian. Then, suddenly, wiggling Damian shrunk even more and turn back into the same boy that the Silverhand and Rapid's gang found initially.

"Pl, please save me! I am now just a pitiful being that can't do anything! If you let me live, I will live here quietly. Just let me live...Think of how long I have been living in here locked up...."

".....sit here." White light sword and pistol pointed at boy's face.

"I don't trust monster's saying in the first place." This was Ark's saying.

And

“You said it already right? You have feelings that you can’t feel. I will let you feel it now. I will let you taste despair and horror, and in addition death.” This was Rapid’s saying.

-Damn!

Damian once again turned himself into serum and ran away. However,..... PuWhaaa! With the shot of liquid nitrogen, the serum turned into ice instantly in its running away position! Then lastly, sword and bullet pierced the ice into million of pieces and it melted away.

-You leveled up!

-You leveled up!.....

Not only Ark, but Irina, Rapid, and employees’ head also showed level up marks.

Due to him being an ultimate serum, experience gained was tremendous. When he landed in Jurassic World, Ark’s level was 160, but with the death of Damian, his level soared to 164! Therefore, the employees who were a lot lower in level had 6-7 level jumps. However, there weren’t any happy employees.

The casualty that resulted from Damian was big. Dark Eden employees, including Ballot and Alf, had 6 casualties. However, these were pioneer NPC. They had the capability to be resurrected, just like the players. The problem was Silverhand. None of their casualties, which included 7 scavengers and 5 attackers, were capable of resurrecting. They had lost nearly 50% of their strength.

As such, even though they were victorious, they were immersed in gloomy state.

“Now, now, take away the gloomy faces!” Clem came and put his arms around Ark and Rapid.

“Even if you have a gloomy face on, that does not mean the dead guys will return right? All we, the survivors, can do is to get together and drink some wine in their memory! And if we are going to do that we must first live to leave this place! Therefore, we must think about leaving only for now!”

“.....ok.”

“Alright, let’s cleanup!”

Then, Silverhand crew went around the place where Damian had fallen to pick up items. They were definitely pros.

There was a woman that had lost a will to speak.

With a prostrating face, looking down a hole, was Kaya!

Not too long ago fog in the forest disappeared, and thus, Kaya was able to get to the Section B research lab following Rapid's – though it was actually Ark – location. She had reached Section A, but the cable car broken down!

However, it was not a problem for Kaya. Her battle suit has the capability of flight by way of floating. However, the weak point to her suit is that it only goes about 10Km/h. This was a speed only slightly faster than walking. With that speed, she had no confidence that she would be capable of going across the lava river in time. Even then, she floated away. She, then, found herself at Nosferatu.

“Ha-ah! It’s finally over.”

“Once I return, I must first bath first.”

“You dummy, first is the wine!”

It was Ark's gang's voice. She couldn't go out! She could only hide and take a look at them!

Then the next day.

“What? Are you for sure?” A man looked at a woman with confused face. His name was Boltear. He was Galaxy Federation's Director of Internal Affairs, in front of him was Irina who just returned from her trip to Jurassic World with Ark.

The reason why Boltear was confused was because of what she said.

“As soon as you return from your vacation, you want Matius Reconnaissance mission?

Do you even know what kind of place is Matius when you are saying this? Matius is a planet that lies in between Galactic Federation and Rama’s boundary. Because of that, at least not yet, there aren’t any battles between the two sides, but both side’s military units are stationed there. There had many agents that died while doing reconnaissance mission there, do you know that? Not only that, Matius is a planet with bunch of level A monsters’ habitats!

“That’s why I am going there!”

“What? Why?”

“I am....” She paused a moment and then she made a fist, as she said, “I want to get stronger!”

“I don’t know what you are saying....” Boltear let out a sigh as he scratched his head.

Space 9: Investment Funds Inauguration

Ark was in the secret hideout, Elim's Sanctum, inside the S-20.

-hmmm, Alkan race....

Tote, the ancient Elim's master, who had been guarding – well, it was more like being stuck inside and not being able to go anywhere, but – the Elim's Sanctum spoke out as if he was recalling a long memory.

-That's right, Alkans were the rulers of the Estana before the Murats came. However, Alkans were a horrible race that slaughtered various races without a care. So Murats stopped them from killing and enslaving other races, and Alkans pretended to be intimidated by the technologically advanced Murats and listened to them. However, when the Murat's expedition team left the system, they showed their true colors and started a war to obliterate all the other races in Estana. At that time, Alkans were the strongest race in Estana.

That's right, the natives weren't able to offer any form of resistance, and thus, were repeatedly chased from city to city. Then, while in despair and almost in a state of extinction, it was as if their prayers had been answered, and light opened up the heaven. The Murat's military stepped in.

-I wasn't there so I don't know the exact circumstances, but I was told the war was brutal. Then after a long war, the Alkans from all the corners of Estana were systematically eliminated and pushed to

their origin, but by that time, the leader had gathered the remaining Alkans and had disappeared, never to be seen again.

Parao, the leader of the military force was worried because he didn't think the leader of the Alkans would silently disappear without schemes for revenge. Therefore, they couldn't leave the system. There were already too many that died due to their negligence, and they weren't about to repeat the same mistake. Ultimately, their solution was to raise a warrior that would remain to obstruct Alkan's evil deeds.

"That warrior was...."

-Right, the Elim

Tote spoke with proud eyes.

-And the last place that the refugees of war gathered together was right here, the Pagos Mountain. This was also the place that the Murat military came and initiated the counter offence. That's why the people called Pagos Mountain a Holy Mountain. And it was at that time that the representatives of all of the races gathered together to meet here as well. That's why Elim's Sanctum is located here, so that when the representatives from each race gather, and if the Alkans were to move again, it would be easy for the Elim to be on the lookout.

That was the reason for the Elim's Sanctum in Pagos Mountain! It was also the reason why the Galaxy Federation knew that religious people often come here for the observations.

However, in truth, the people that gathered at the Pagos Mountain were not religious, but the representatives, and they gathered here on a routine basis so that they would not forget the thankfulness that they bear in their hearts and minds toward the Murat race and to look out for any possibility of Alkans crawling out of the darkness to wreck havoc again.

-However, to think that the Alkans were hiding in such a place. Not only that, they were obliterated by the very weapon that they built to revenge against the Murats....I can only say I pity them. The beings that only depend on strength to solve any and all things end up like them. I am sure you have learned a lot from this experience. It is good that you are building strength, but you have to think deeply when using that strength.

He ended the story with off the wall moral lesson. Of course, thinking back, Tote was considered as Elim's moral teacher. In other words, he was Star War's Yoda – in reality, the Tote that Ark saw at Muratio Star was exactly like Yoda from Star Wars – like being.

This was Tote's role.

Well, whatever!

It was true that the adventure, this time, was meaningful.

It was good that Ark could spend extended time with Irina – it was regretful that she returned to her Federation office as soon as

they got out of the Jurassic World –, ultimately, there were too many that were killed, but Silverhand members were saved. It was when they were leaving the Jurassic World on Silver Star.....

<<Peace Maker>> Title had been earned!

You were adventuring around the Estana system when you discovered the remains of the ancient race Alkans that were hiding in the middle earth, and you ended up encountering a being that was made by the Alkan race to revenge against the Murat race. If that being were to have escaped onto the surface, the Estana natives, as well as all humanoids, would have suffered greatly.

With your crew, you were able to eliminate the being and prevented the disaster to hit the Estana system. Unfortunately, your effort shown here, would not be recorded in the history books, but even if it would not be recorded, that does not mean that the truth will disappear. Also, even if others would not recognize you for it, this is a prideful moment for all the members involved.

The one that defends world's peace! The peace maker!

<<Title Effect: Peace Maker (All Stats +6)>>

+ You have earned, Fame 5000; Adventure Point 1000 (max pts)!

The message popped up in front! It meant a new title had been earned. What was more important was that all of the members had earned the title. Ark, Irina, Rapid, the employees, and the Silverhand all earned +6 to their stats. This was equivalent to having leveled up 3~4 times, but that was not all.

<<T-rex's bio-tissue X 12>>

<<Dilophosaurus's bio-tissue X 32>>

<<Triceratops's bio-tissue X 6>>.....

Serum research ingredients

Item Type: Data Disc

There are numerous data disc that are spread all across the Galaxian. To some people, the data that are in these discs are meaningless, but to those that have the analyzing capability, these items would be very valuable. Not only that, these provide the opportunity to raise one's knowledge.

<<Required Research Completion Time: ???>>

#Required Skill: Research Lv.2, Bioengineering Lv. 2.

This was the item that was dropped by Damian. Due to him being a result of numerous dinosaurs that tossed into one, what he had to drop were quite a bit. It was regrettable that no equipment fell, but there were no reasons for disappointment. These were all ingredients that can be used for 'mix-up.' Only disappointment that can be felt was the fact that these ingredients could only be used once, and there were 41 members that were working underneath Ark. There weren't enough for all of them.

Not only that, there was an item that Ark kept looking with mixed feelings. It was the data disc that had the research data for the serums seen at the Jurassic World. It was definite that, if given to the right person, there would be something to be earned, but the most eye catching part was '???' It didn't say what can be earned

from it.

It didn't seem like it would be the kind of reward that he should have earned after having killed Damian, the ultimate boss of Jurassic World. It was given that the drops from the monsters were random, but Damian was a boss that raised everyone's level by 4~6.

'Any normal monsters would drop 1~2 items, but Damian only dropped 1. That meant that the disc would be the best drop of all of Jurassic World! The fact that '???' were shown, the potential was great that the reward was something grand!'

Ark really wanted to get the research started right away, but in order to research the disc, research and bio-engineering skill was needed, and current Dark Eden member capable of carrying out this research were Jay assisted by Tori. They were, currently, in the middle of another research back at the S-20, and the % completion.....37%.

They were studying a design blueprint of an unknown that was found while Ark was in Inquiry.

NPCs can't stop a current research in order to start on another research. In such instances, the abandoned research must be discarded. As such, the research on the data disc must be on hold.

Not only that, research for 'mix-up' was also Jay's specialty, and thus must be on hold as well. In other words, there was nothing that can be done with any of the items that were found on Jurassic

World.

Same with the items found on Ikyulus.

Second research that was being done on S-20 was being done by Hagel and Hex. They were the 'Item Analysis' specialists, and their current job % completion rate....47%.

All of the items found on Ikyulus were unknown items that needed to be analyzed, and Ark didn't even have time to sort through them because he had to leave to go to the Jurassic World right after his return from Ikyulus.

Item analysis was something that could also take quite some time in completing the analysis. Simple analysis may take few hours, but in the worst case scenario, an analysis can take more than a day.

Current item that is being analyzed by Hagel and Hex was from the Jurassic World, that they started as soon as they landed on S-20. If it wasn't for Hex helping Hagel, progress rate would be less than 57%.

Even then, Ark was frustrated like no other.

'Do I need to find another researcher....'

Current research specialists in Dark Eden were Bioengineer field Jay, Machine Maintenance field Tori, and Item analysis field

Hagel, totaling 3.

3 were more than enough....no, not enough.

The problem was that there were just too many missions and too many ‘???’ that were coming in. This time, unexpected items from Ikyulus and Jurassic World demanded so much of researcher’s time.

‘I can’t return to S-20 every time I find something that needs to be identified. Not only that, with the development of the Ikyulus about to get started, there will be too many things to do. Also, the employees also have many tasks that they must complete, thus increasing number of unknown items. If the unknowns are not identified quickly, their use may be long gone by the time they are identified.’

It was time to increase research personnel.

But even that was something to do later....

Hard to imagine, but Ark returned to S-20 after one week. He had much to do and much to verify. He need to catch up to how S-20 was progressing, and he also had to visit the Jalan race to see how the space food production was progressing.

Also, there were things to finalize with the Silverhand, but....

‘Chet, it is already this late?’ Ark clicked his tongue as he turned

his face.

“I think I had better get going.”

-What, you are going out? Didn’t you say you had a lot to ask me?

“I will have to ask them after I get back. Sorry, I don’t have much time right at the moment.”

“HyunWoo ssi, over here!” A woman in a glamorous dress waved her hand as she yelled.

But HyunWoo noticed her even before her voice reached him. There were quite a bit of people that were around, but she was the only person that was enveloped by a bright light....so he felt.

Just the fact that such beauty was in a relationship with him was enough to boost his mood. Cho MinSun, she made all other women around her look like a dried up squid!

She was HyunWoo’s woman.

“Sorry, I am a bit late right?”

“No, I just got here myself.” As HyunWoo got close, Cho MinSun walked up to him with a bright face. All of a sudden, there were a lot of tongue clicking noises from the audience. They were from all the disappointed men that were staring at her before the two got

together. It would be impossible for men around Cho MinSun to not notice her.

Even with that said....

“You are exquisitely pretty today.”

“Yes, I spent a bit more time today. That’s because today is an important day.”

“Well, it is an important day.” Ark scratched his head as he looked around.

“But is there something going on here today? We purposely picked an out of the way place, but there are too many people here. I don’t know whether people will be able to find their way here, with all these people around.”

Hearing HyunWoo’s words, Cho MinSun turned to look at him with a dumbfounded look.

“Huh? You really don’t know?”

“What do you mean? What do I not know?”

“All these people, all of them came here for our sake.”

“Ah, oh. Ah? Oh?”

“Aomo, You really didn’t know it seems like?”

“That’s....but....why so many.....no, good if it is this many but....” HyunWoo looked around with uneasiness.

Actually, the reason why the two met today was not for a date. Today was the date for the investment funds initiation. Today was the day that the investors would be explained about the investment opportunity with the Ikyulus development plan.

In truth, HyunWoo had planned to do this at S-20, but....Alan.

-Even if it is within a game, money moves back and fro between the game world and the real world. Even 100 gold is a lot of money to an average user. Do you think someone would invest that kind of money to someone they don’t know and have never met in person? Most important thing in business agreement is faith, and that faith is established by meeting in person. Therefore, it would be better for us to explain our plan in the real world, and especially in a wealthy looking establishment, unlike some darkened café, trying to explain business plan. Such ruins a venturing mood.

.....so he said, and rented a college theater.

‘No wonder the rich.....’

In truth, HyunWoo didn’t like this. Business proposal was a

grand idea, but it was, ultimately, something that was to be done within a game. He understood the fact that such explanation must be done in the real world, but if people was to gather, how many would bother? Also, even if Alan was taking charge of the fund raising, it was still HyunWoo's business. Ultimately, it was also HyunWoo that had to pay for the rent of the building.

'Chet! Let's see just how many people come for this!' Such was the 50% motivation factor for HyunWoo to even come to this event. But all these people are here to hear about the business plan? His mind was being bloated.

"This is due to the TV program that aired not too long ago," explained Cho MinSun, noticing the uneasiness in HyunWoo's facial expression.

"Ikyulus disappeared and came back not too long ago right? Well, coincidentally, a media member happened to have taken a video of that event, and it was aired as a Game Special recently. Probably these people came here to hear about that issue."

"Game Special....." It was something that HyunWoo does not watch.

Well there was a reason for that, but after hearing Cho MinSun's explanation, he had a disappointed face. Because the number of people here meant that they were here for the story rather than the investment. It was good that many people came, but if that didn't convert into an investment, there was very little meaning in number.

“But don’t be too disappointed. Regardless, there has to be people for there to be an investment. I am sure there will be some that will be convinced to invest after hearing the explanation.

“It would be nice if that was the case.” HyunWoo nodded with half worry and half hopeful face.

No need to be explained, but this was an important event for HyunWoo. In order for him to come out of the shadow of Hawk, he must move beyond S-20 and start to develop Ikyulus, and this business plan explanation was to gather that all important fund. How much HyunWoo change within the game, from this point on, was dependent on how well this event unfolds.

Therefore, HyunWoo raised his aspiration.

‘At least 5W!’ (TL: for the sake of easy read, I used 5W to replace 500,000,000 Won)

This was the amount that HyunWoo wanted to earn from today’s event. Of course, even without this much, the development can begin, but if not, it is obvious that the development will be lagging. He knew that this was almost impossible....because even though it was easy to say it, obtaining the actual amount was not.

‘Even though, if I am gonna catch up to Hawk, I must obtain this amount! If the investment, only, does not work, I will have to find another means!

“Ok, let’s go in.”

“Yes.” HyunWoo walked in with determination on his face.

“If we were any later, we would not have found a seat.”

The place was filled with 70% of the capacity already. The filling capacity was 150, so this was about 100 people. In a moment that they sat on their seat, the other seats were also quickly filled, and some even had to stand on the back.

With the bustling of the people, the theater got darker and the noise started to mellow down.

One man walked out onto the stage. He was slightly limping. He was Alan! He was the reason why HyunWoo and Cho MinSun were still seated in their seats.

This is a repeat, but this event was a very important event. It was worrisome for HyunWoo to leave such important event to another person, but because this was a very big and heavy task, he couldn’t do it by himself.

HyunWoo’s face is already well known. Since he came on TV quite a few times, real gamers would instantly recognize him, but he wasn’t supposed to be inside Galaxian, playing a game. For now, in real life, he couldn’t come out in the open. Even if he could, he was not an expert in this matter.

If you don't know, you must let those that know do it.

Not only that, it was Alan that started and finished all this. Alan was more qualified to do the explaining.

Though the misery that Alan gave him in Jurassic World was still lingering in his mind, with this issue, he had 100% faith in Alan.

'I can only trust in you, Alan!'

-I would like to explain the Ikyulus development plan at this time.

And so the dice has been cast.

-.....that is all.

Alan's voice came out of the speaker inside the theater with a "Woongwoong" noise.

-As I have explained, in a sector of Ikyulus, according to the Galaxy Federation reports, Helium, which is widely used by many to make the most advanced armor that is available today, had been determined to be readily available. Also, commonly used component to make fuel for the spaceships, Ether, is deposited in Ikyulus as well. Of course it would take some time in order for these to be acquired, packaged, and transported, but once the

infrastructure is set, there would be much money to be made. The monthly return on the investment is estimated to be roughly 5%.

‘.....No doubt!’ It was a good thing that this was left up to Alan.

In the screen behind Alan was a projection of visual aids for his explanation. The explanation was made in a way that the layman, such as HyunWoo, was able to understand easily regarding the Ikyulus situation.

Alan, the guy that works exceptionally well even with complaints.

If HyunWoo had done it instead, he wouldn’t even be able to do half of what Alan did. The same was true for the explaining procedure.

“I have a question!” One of the listener got up from his seat.

-Yes, speak

“How is the usage of the fund determined?”

-That depends on the total amount that had been raised. If explained, simply, about 50% will be used for the development of the planet, which include expenditure used by the Dark Eden. The remaining 50% will be strictly used for returns on the investment. For now, we are considering that 50% to be 5W.

“5W.....!” (TL, as a reminder, this amount is 500,000,000 won, which is about \$500k)

The audiences were surprised by the amount. No matter how much money is being thrown around in this society, 5W was still an astounding amount of money....and all this was for the development inside of a game.

To be clear, the people that were gathered were mostly gamers that were not presidents of big corporations which are used to spending such money. Therefore, mention of 5W would be astounding to most of them.

But Alan spoke as if it was natural.

-To repeat, 1W would secure a return of 10% on the investment, but this is not something that is set in stone. If the investment amount was to increase to 10W, for example, the said 1W would produce a return of 5%.

“Does that mean that the return percentage would drop with the increase in the investment?”

-Yes. Now, it may feel like it is a waste of money, but it is not. The fact that the total investment is increasing is a testament to the investment potential, and the development will be quickened, thus quickening the return on the investment. It means that the percentage may change, but the overall return wouldn't change.

“How will the investment be made?”

-Of course, contract will be available inside the game, but since we are speaking of quite a bit of money, we plan on having contracts drawn in real life as well. If you were to invest right now, you will be given contract that had been drawn up by a lawyer.

“I also have a question.” Soon, many questions followed.

Then, with every question, Alan gave them answers without a hitch. Like that, the number of questions gradually dropped after 20 minutes. They heard pretty much all there was to hear.

What was left was whether they would invest or not.

‘Now the problem is their response.....’ HyunWoo scanned the potential investors with an uneasy feeling, and then!

Three men sitting quite a distance away from HyunWoo started to talk in whispers.

“Are you really going to do it?”

“Yeah, I have already made up my mind.” A man nodded at the other’s question.

‘Ark is a bastard, but! And therefore I do not want to accept him,

but! That jerk's business sense is nothing to be laughing about. That Alan person on the stage is that jerk Rapid, but the man behind him is 'that' Ark. Since it is him, this business won't fail.'

"That's why I am saying this doesn't seem right."

"Yes, this is Ark we are talking about investing in...."

"Even if we will make a lot of money....."

"No, Ark was the reason for me wanting to invest in this project." A bit obese man replied with a serious facial expression.

"We ended up living the life of slaves even in the Galaxian. For us to get out of the shadow of 'that' Ark, there is but one solution. That is money. If we were to pay back the 3000 gold that we stole from him, we wouldn't be in this situation, but if we were to earn that amount back from this investment? That means we are repaying Ark with his own money. Think for a second. Doesn't that feel good? That is not all. If we invest in this, we are part owners of Ikyulus. No, if we were to invest sizable amount of money, we may be able to mess with Ark in return!" Ferguson replied with a big smile!

"Ohoh! That is right!" The two men that were ecstatically happy at hearing Ferguson's reasoning were A, B.

"HoohooHoo! Now you understand right? Therefore, don't be all naggy and give me all the money that you have brought."

“Yes!”

The three men combined all of their money!

Total: 785,000. Total: 893,000. Total: 1,345,700.

3,000,000....about 0.03W

This was roughly 0.3% of the target investment amount.....

“Hyu, Hyungnim....”

“Don’t say anything! It is not a sin to be poor! And there is no guarantee that the investment will really be 10W! It could be that only 50,000,000 will be invested!” (TL: 0.5W)

“Even then, it is not even 5%.”

“No, it could be that only 10,000,000 will be invested! Then that would be 15%!”

It was at that time.

“I will invest 3W!” All of a sudden there were loud noises from the audience. Then all looked in the direction of the voice. The person that yelled 3W was a man in his 30s.

This man's identity is.....

“Business proposal?”

“Yes, I am sure that is what I had heard.”

“What kind of business is he proposing?”

“After asking around, I was told that the young master is developing a planet inside of a game, and the money was for that development.”

“Investment fund.....!” This was Alan’s father, Yoo HanPil.

Actually, Yoo HanPil had been monitoring Alan’s activity for a while. Alan, instead of thinking about taking over his father’s business, had been doing nothing but going inside of that video game, and Yoo HanPil’s heart was burning black. But, recently, he noticed that Alan was spending most of his time reading over books on business funds and investment strategy.

Yoo HanPil was convinced that Alan was finally setting his mind straight and was concentrating on taking over his business, and he was hoping that Alan would come over to him and ask question as if he was a high school kid asking his father.

However, he, yet again, noticed that Alan had returned to

playing nothing but the video game, and he was disappointed.

Yoo Hanpil's disappointment was nothing to be overlooked, but his inquisitiveness had heightened as much as his disappointment. Why would he spend all that time reading those books only to return to the game? And if he asked Alan, all he got was a mumbled response. That was the reason for his secretary keeping track of Alan's activity.

'Now I can make some sense out of this! Yes, that was the reason for all that studying! Alan was using the game to gain some experience in running a business. No, actually, it would be considered as business simulation. He is doing that so that he can take over my business! To take over his father business! In order to make his father's business even more successful! With his own strength!'

Yoo HanPil cried a tear of pride.

However, now that he knows what is going on, how can he ignore what Alan is doing? And thus, Yoo HanPil yelled.

"Secretary Kim, immediately send someone to invest in Alan's business!"

"Yes, how much would you like?"

"That boy is wanting to do it on his own without letting his father know. I want to invest 100W, but it is bad to help him too

much. 3W. Yeah, that would be plenty. 3W!"

Due to Yoo HanPil's overreaction.....

"3, 3W?" Ferguson's eye opened up real wide.

Alan's goal was 10W, but to think that the fund would go up this fast....and the first call was not 1 or 2 but 3W?

Combining his two underling's money was only 0.03W. Therefore, their total investment was in the range of 0.5%.

"T....this is less than 0.5%!" This was what Ferguson said as he swallowed his dry mouth. But then...

"I will invest 5W!" Another man followed up with another big amount.

This man is....

"Business Proposal?"

"Yes, that is what I heard." Two people were having the same conversation elsewhere.

The relationship of these two were also that of a president and his secretary.

This president was Cho MinSun's father. He had recently gained a new hobby. That was tailing his daughter's boyfriend. Why did it become his hobby? It was because the more he found out about HyunWoo, more mystical he became.

HyunWoo was someone that had made a name for himself playing a game. He knew at least this much. He knew about the jokers that earned spending money – though to normal people it was a sizeable amount – merely playing game. What he couldn't figure out was what came next.

'A man in his 20's is a vice president of a corporation? For playing video game well? For that reason only?'

For a man owning a legitimate business, such was nonsense.

Well, whatever, Global Exxus probably had their own circumstances, but what was even hard to believe was the fact that for someone that had gotten lucky and became a vice president to be on friendly terms with SungYun Group's president and Oil Tycoon Abdul. It was truly unfathomable.

'What is this guy's identity?'

As such, he developed unending interest in HyunWoo, but this HyunWoo is, yet again, creating a stir. He had a business proposal to develop a planet in a game. He was making money on a planet that does not even exist in real life?

“Is something like that really possible?”

“Well, now days, even the virtual assets are being recognized as legit so....”

“So it is possible huh? Then should I stir things up a bit?”

“Huh?”

“Put in 2W.” He still didn’t know the man called HyunWoo. He didn’t know what kind of man he was. All he knew was that real identity of a person is always revealed with money. That was the reason for the 2W. It was an amount that was big enough to make an individual hesitate. He wanted to know how HyunWoo would react upon given that kind of money. HyunWoo’s relationship with his daughter can be questioned at that time.

.....so that was his thought, but.....

“President, I have just heard from the man that was sent to make the investment. As soon as the proposal was explained, there was a man investing 3W.”

“3W?”

They weren’t making a video game, and they were simply developing something inside of a game, but still invest 3W? He

really couldn't make sense out anything. Another, something, is happening around HyunWoo.

However, that can be questioned at another time.

'Is there someone else around HyunWoo that I don't know about? No, it is definitely possible. For someone that doesn't even have canine teeth to know president Kim and Abdul, it simply is not possible. 3W is not too big of an investment, but for an investment to be for an inside game development, it was quite big. Something that big would not be given to him without a reason. There is definitely something.'

"It is 5W."

"What is this? Is everybody insane? Am I the only sane person here?" Ferguson looked at the two men that had invested 3W and 5W, respectively. 3W? 5W? It was an amount that normal working person would be lucky to even touch in his/her life. It was not to buy a house or something, but for that to be used to invest inside of a game? Though Ferguson, A, and B were also crazy enough to spend most of their time inside of a game, but they couldn't think such investment was normal.

But that was not the end.

"I, I am investing 2W!"

Another crazy person revealed himself.

This crazy man's identity is.....

“Business Proposal?”

Same line of conversation is happening elsewhere so.....SKIP.

If the explanation was to be explained in 2x the speed, the third crazy man was SoLin, the online game reporter.

SoLin had been tailing the Federation soldiers coming out of the Pentagon, and he happened to have seen the Ikyulus coming out of its hiding. Ever since that moment, he had been keeping up with all of Ark's doings. That's how he found out about this business proposal. He reported his finding to the main MC Lee JiOng.

“This may be a good opportunity.”

“Huh? Opportunity?”

“Think about it. Ark has been constantly refusing our interview invitation. However, what would happen if we were to become a major investor in his business? Businessman always looks out for the investor. The fact that you are giving him money is no different than holding a leash around his neck.”

“Therefore, what you are saying is...”

“We are to invest in his planet, a sizeable amount. Then it would be like we are squeezing Ark’s neck, and therefore, we would no longer have to beg him to interview him. Isn’t that right?”

“That is true, but where would we get the money?”

“No matter how much you think about it, the investors are the gamers. How much would they invest in something like that? In a best case scenario it wouldn’t be much. Therefore, if we invest around 0.3-0.4W, that would be more than enough. We can always invest and take it back if something was to happen so let me worry about the amount.”

But now that he went to the meeting, the first batter called 3W! and the following batter called 5W!

SoLin had no other choice, but to call Lee JiOng.

“Hy, hyungnim, they are not playing around! Two individuals invested so far and the total is already 8W! This is definitely not a small business that we thought about!”

“8, 8W?”

Now that 8W was already invested, 0.3-0.4W was nothing. The plan was to invest and take out, depending on the situation, but to invest even more money just to control Ark was a bit unreasonable.

‘Yeah, if it means to control Ark, that would be the case!’

But after hearing 8W, Lee JiOng had no option but to think of something else.

Two individuals put in total of 8W. No matter how much money they had, such investment was unreasonable. However, if a big hand (?) was to make a move, there had to have been reason to. In other words, two individuals that had invested 3W and 5W had some kind of understanding that others didn’t. Lee JiOng was convinced.

‘This business will definitely make money!’

“This may be a chance of a life time! I will empty out my entire bank account, so bet all of it in!”

And therefore 2W!

That is the fact of being human.

Even if you hesitate about buying something, if they see others buying it, they would immediately buy it as well.

Investment was the same.

‘It is already 10W!’

‘Only three individuals invested and it is already 10W!’

‘What is this? Wasn’t this a business within a game? Why are they investing so much for a business within a game?’

‘I thought it would be fun to come see what was going on since it was on TV, but this was no joke?’

‘Yeah, now that I think back on it, the guy called Alan didn’t seem like a normal guy. For some reason professional smell permeates from him.’

‘Maybe it may be a real stupendous business!’

‘If it goes well....’

It wasn’t that Lee JiOng was special. In such moments, others would think in the same manner. Therefore, even the general visitors that had come for an entertainment also ended up investing.

There was even a line that was made in order for them to invest in on the development, and the end result was.....20W!

“Hy, Hyungnim, our portion is only 0.074%!”

“Won’t this amount invite Ark’s haze?”

“Don’t ask me! Why ask knowing what would happen?”

“Kyak! HyunWoo ssi, it is 20W! 20W! This is a jackpot!” Cho SunMin exploded with a yell and

‘Oooohahaha! 20W! This amount is enough to build all the infrastructures on Ikyulus at once! Good! Wait for me, my planet Ikyulus! I will show you what money is!’ HyunWoo’s head was already at Ikyulus.

At the same time.

There were 5 individuals that were looking out the side window to look at the Ikyulus. They had their hood down to their chin, and they were looking at Ikyulus with big white eyes. One of the five turned to look at the man sitting on a chair.

“Look like they failed.”

“Looks that way.”

“Wouldn’t that be a problem?”

“It doesn’t matter. It didn’t meet my expectation, but we did get plenty of data.”

“But the Arch Duke....”

“It, Does, Not, Matter, I, Said!”

The man sitting in the back, unlike other five, this man had white skin spoke with red glare in his eyes. Then the man that had asked the question froze stiff as if he was a frog looking at the snake that was about to eat it.

He was able to move only when the red eyed man turned to look at the Ikyulus once again.

“I, I am sorry.”

The man with the red eyes didn’t even respond and kept on looking at the Ikyulus, and underneath his hood was a bright smile.

‘I can feel your presence Ark! You probably can’t even tell how much I want to meet you, and I am sure, though not as much, you would want to meet me as well. But the time is not yet right. We will have to meet at a much later time. Rise while you still can, and make sure to come up high. Then it would be so much more pleasant to kick you back down.’

“We are returning! Ready the warp!” The man turned 180 to give out the order, and with a sparkle in the space, their spaceship, with the design of a black wolf on the side, disappeared.